

TUESDAY, MARCH 30, 1982

Making criticism treason

THE CABINET is so badly pinched for time that it still hasn't got down to examining in detail so crucial an issue as Israel's policy in the occupied territories.

Nevertheless, two weeks ago the cabinet found three full hours to wallow in memories of the Anisooroff murder, and this week it devoted two hours to another exercise in domestic political warfare: bashing the Broadcasting Authority for television's too-truthful coverage of the latest events in the West Bank — and, incidentally, lambasting the Labour Party because some of its Knesset Members took part in a "Peace Now" rally at which some of the anti-occupation slogans were not to Prime Minister Menachem Begin's taste.

This could perhaps be written off as merely a low-comedy use of the high cabinet forum: Mr. Begin, whose personal initiative it invariably happens to be, shifts his fingers, and, almost without exception, the ministerial marionettes jump to perform as bidden. But it is not funny at all.

The premier's purpose is simple and obvious. He is out to intimidate into silence and submission all who might stand in the way of his programme for the territories. Television must be cowed because it dares present the facts about the West Bank directly as they are, warts and all, rather than filter them first through the prism of Mr. Begin's political doctrine.

Television's most heinous crime was to screen interviews last Friday with the deposed West Bank mayors, Nablus's Bassam Shak'a and Ramallah's Karim Khalaf, who are enemies of Israel — as Mr. Begin has suddenly discovered after suffering them for five long years — and, in the case of Mr. Khalaf, hold "Nazi" views.

Plainly, the people of Israel must not be allowed to determine for themselves whether Mr. Shak'a and Mr. Khalaf fit Mr. Begin's description of them — that right is now reserved to the premier and his dutiful cabinet. They alone know what's right and what's wrong, in the West Bank and beyond.

Indeed, "leaks" generously supplied from the cabinet table last Sunday suggest that any criticism, express or implied, on the air waves of his public conduct is now, in Mr. Begin's eyes, tantamount to *lese-majeste*.

As for the Labour Party, it is at fault for seeming to associate itself with slogans decrying the annexation of the Golan and opposing the continued occupation of Judea and Samaria. The annexation of the Golan was duly ratified by the Knesset, Mr. Begin recalls, and Judea and Samaria, he contends, are not occupied territories.

The irrelevance of the argument should be clear. The passage of a law by the Knesset does not make it immune to criticism, and the occupied status of Judea and Samaria is a matter of fact, not judgement, at least so long as they have not been annexed. But it is Mr. Begin's purpose to make it appear that opposition to the creeping incorporation of these areas into Israel is an act of disloyalty, if not treason.

True, the premier is still adhering to the rhetoric of democracy. Thus he rejected a proposal by his industry and trade minister, Gideon Patt, that the Broadcasting Authority should be put back in the Prime Minister's Office — on the ground that the "government is the state." The two are separate, Mr. Begin nobly averred.

But in truth Mr. Patt was only — if inadvertently — articulating the authoritarian tendencies underlying the premier's whole approach. Today he is out to get television, tomorrow he will turn on the press. Today he rules out of order a party that does not agree with him, tomorrow he will try to silence it.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31, 1982

Fizzling into a slow burn

LAND DAY fizzled out. Israel's Arabs, the overwhelming majority of them, showed the wisdom and the restraint which President Yitzhak Navon had urged them, the day before, to demonstrate. They would not allow themselves to be dragged down the road of confrontation by a bunch of unscrupulous trouble-makers.

Response to the call for a general strike was highly unimpressive, and even where it was heeded there were no major incidents all day long. The official organizers, it is true, were themselves careful to avoid an open breach of the law.

Plainly Israel's Arabs value the great gains they have made under the aegis of democracy. They are not eager to fritter these gains away. They also have their share of justified, and still unmet, grievances about unequal status. These have caused a large number of Arabs to cast their ballots, locally and nationally, over the years for Israel's pariah party, the communists.

But they are well aware, the overwhelming majority of them, that their best — indeed their only — chance of making further progress lies in utilizing the instrumentalities of democracy, and not in violence.

The danger remains, however, that the condition of their kinsmen in the West Bank and Gaza will radicalize Israel's Arabs beyond any measure warranted by their own situation. For it is folly to believe that the Green Line, which the government has repeatedly declared to be null and void, could be restored merely in order to force off Nazareth and Saknin from Nablus and Ramallah.

The continued political and military repression of the West Bankers, even if in the name of an incipient autonomy, is bound sooner or later to affect the thinking of Arabs within Israel.

The peacefulness of yesterday's Land Day should not lead anyone in authority into illusion on this score.

SUNDAY, APRIL 4, 1982

Murder in Paris

THE SHOCKING murder of Israeli diplomat Ya'acov Bar-Siman-Tov in broad daylight in Paris comes as a reminder of the ongoing war that has been pressed against Israel by the forces of Palestinian terrorism, at times acting through the agency of international terrorist organizations affiliated with it.

Other Israeli diplomats have been murdered in Turkey and in the U.S. and many others have been subject to unsuccessful terrorist attacks. This latest outrage would seem to be connected with the machine-gunning, last Wednesday, of the Israeli military mission in Paris, and possibly also to the terrorist bombing of a French express train.

The fact that PLO sources have denied responsibility for yesterday's murder does not necessarily mean that it or some of its constituent, and at times dissident, bodies were not connected to the dastardly attack. The denial, however, is an interesting departure, for normally, PLO sources have been wont to take great pride in such strikes.

The PLO's alacrity in issuing the denial would seem to be a further indicator of its interest in denying Israel any pretext for launching an all out attack against PLO bases and forces in southern Lebanon.

Israel has quite correctly made known its stand that proven PLO inspired attacks on Israeli targets from anywhere, and not necessarily only across the Lebanese border with Israel, would be considered a breach of the cease-fire concluded with the PLO last July.

The point has been made forcefully, and needs no constant reiteration. In fact, such reiteration could possibly even result in a boomerang effect, putting the credibility of Israel's determined stand in question.

Last night's transparent hint on Israel television news that Prime Minister Begin could be expected to view the Paris attack as such a breach of the cease-fire was an unnecessary piece of sabre-rattling.

What is needed is a deliberate consideration of the facts in the case and a responsible weighing of the alternative courses of action, or of a staying of action, that are available to Israel.

Israel is fully justified in pursuing its war against a PLO that has been waging a particularly murderous form of personal warfare against Israeli civilians for a decade and a half. There is also much to be argued in favour of the wisdom of continuing to exploit the current cease-fire with the PLO to Israel's advantage. Neither, however, should be made hostage to perceptions of momentary advantage said to be inherent in the linking of Israeli actions to the timing of its final withdrawal from the rest of Sinai three weeks hence.

Dry Bones



THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 1982

A temporary lull?

WHAT WAS so urgent about the "Who's a Jew" bill at this particular juncture in Jewish history that it should have been pressed with such unabashed vigour by Agudat Yisrael's Avraham Shapira, even though to no avail? What crying need was to be served by rushing this long mooted amendment to the Law of Return through the Knesset before it rose for the Pesach recess?

The crying need, we now know, was for the Hassidic Rebbe of Gur, a pillar of the Aguda's Council of Sages, to serve the new law as a present to the Lubavitcher Rebbe of Brooklyn, in time for the latter's 80th birthday. So, to gladden the heart of a rabbi who has made it a matter of principle never to visit Israel, a law whose retention intact is favoured by most Israelis had to be modified so as to fit with the Aguda prescription.

Fortunately the bill never even got to be tabled, because the Aguda strategists realized that a left-of-centre coalition with a few breakaway Liberals would defeat it. Mr. Begin's government should, however, be thankful for the result which prevented the emergence of a deep schism within world Jewry.

The purpose of the bill was to deny recognition to any act of conversion that was not carried out "according to the halacha," which in effect means "by an Orthodox rabbi." This would have amounted to the casting of the Conservative and Reform movements outside the pale, as far as Israel is concerned. U.S. Conservative and Reform leaders warned before the intended vote that their continued support of Israel, as Zionists, could no longer be taken for granted if the amendment, pushed by a tiny non-Zionist party, were written into law.

Before the vote there was some fear that the sponsors would retaliate for a defeat by setting off a coalition crisis. This is not now likely to happen, if only because the Aguda is so pleased by the benefits it receives from supporting the Likud. Besides, it is a fact that while Premier Begin promised to try to persuade his party to back the amendment, he made no further pledge.

But the attempt, MK Shapira let everyone know, would be renewed: one day he would spring a surprise on the Knesset, and then, "Boom! The bill will pass into law."

This is a standing danger. The bill, it should be conceded, has one seemingly good argument going for it, which may seem plausible even to the non-observant mind. Conversion, it is argued, is a halachic concept, therefore to be proper any conversion must be carried out "according to halacha." But the argument is not plausible, and it flies in the face of the Supreme Court's jurisprudence.

In the famous case of Brother Daniel the court ruled that the Law of Return, being a civil and not a rabbinical law, is not necessarily to be interpreted according to the halacha — and in fact it ruled against a halachic interpretation. The question "Who's a Jew" must clearly be answered in reference to the specific law under which it is raised, and halacha may be irrelevant, in whole or in part.

For the purpose of the Law of Return the issue is merely, which person should be considered as a Jew so as to acquire the right of citizenship upon admission to the Jewish state. Analogies abound in the civil law. The Sabbath, too, is a halachic concept. Yet no-one proposes to the Knesset that the law governing public conduct on the Sabbath must strictly conform to halacha.

The Law of Return, a product of pressure by the NRP as it stands, must not, of course, be viewed as immune to change.

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Emergency shelters in border settlements in the North were being prepared over the weekend for any possibility, and on Saturday weapons were distributed to security personnel in the settlements.

Editorial Comment, Sunday, April 11, 1982

Whose war hysteria?

THERE is widespread anticipation around the world, not least inside Israel itself, that within the next few days, and in any case not later than April 26, Israeli troops, all two divisions of them that are said to be poised on the northern frontier, may be ordered to launch a massive strike into southern Lebanon, and to advance all the way up to the outskirts of Beirut.

The official reason will be a series of PLO acts, notably the murder in Paris of diplomat Ya'acov Bar-Siman-Tov, which Israel — though not necessarily the U.S., which helped negotiate it — considers a blatant violation of last July's cease-fire. The operational purpose, however, will be to smash the PLO force in southern Lebanon, and its entire infrastructure, and possibly also to remove the Syrian missiles from the Bekaa Valley.

Inevitably, this has bred apprehension of a major war and a wider conflict.

In Washington the State Department spokesman — with Israel plainly in mind — has called for "utmost restraint," suggesting that "this is the time for maximum caution."

Some officials in Washington have pointed out that there is no "hard evidence" of any actual Israeli plan to march into Lebanon. Nevertheless, the feeling seems to be that this time Israel is finally on the brink of action.

The same feeling is shared by more than a few people within this country. A group of Labour members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee issued an appeal Friday against a "military adventure" on the Lebanese border.

Officially Jerusalem has remained tight-lipped about the spate of rumours concerning a possible Israeli action in Lebanon, while at the same time decrying them as "hysterical." Thus Mr. Begin's press spokesman has insultingly rapped the group of protesting Foreign Affairs and Defence committee members for "whipping up an artificial hysteria without proper knowledge of the facts."

Why "hysteria"? Surely not because Israel has no intention whatever of actually taking action in Lebanon. If that were the case, a simple statement denying all the war rumours would have been enough.

Is it, then, because an Israeli thrust into Lebanon would be a "walkover" — a simple, surgical operation that would dispose of the PLO and all its works in one fell swoop, without causing anyone else so much as a bad eye? But that is precisely what very few people outside of Mr. Begin's immediate circle take for granted. Most people in this country still remember the less than spectacular success of the 1978 Litani Operation in clearing southern Lebanon of the PLO and the events leading to the last cease-fire.

It will not do then, to disparage as "hysterical" a reasoned misgiving about a major war that might be launched, for the first time in the country's history, on a flimsy excuse not amounting to a genuine *cassus belli*, without the support of a national consensus — possibly even without full cabinet agreement — in outright defiance of the U.S., and which rather than rid Israel of the incubus of the PLO could entangle this country with Syria and worse.

An "artificial hysteria" is rather what government and military leaders have been whipping up in the past few days, in the apparent hope of softening up public opinion at home, even if not abroad, in preparation for some large-scale action in Lebanon.

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Tension mounts over possible Israel raid into Lebanon

Jerusalem Post Staff

Tension along the Israeli-Lebanon border was fuelled over the weekend by the infiltration from Jordan of two Palestinian terrorists, who were captured by Israeli forces, and by an unusually long cabinet meeting, in which security matters were discussed.

Meanwhile, the Lebanese Prime Minister said he would contact the UN about reports of IDF troops massing on the border. And U.S. officials mounted an effort to head off an invasion (story below.)

No statement was issued by the cabinet after a six-hour session on Sunday, since the ministers sat as the Ministerial Security Committee, whose deliberations are secret. Israel Radio reported that two ministers took sharp issue with Defence Minister Ariel Sharon over his hawkish stance regarding a possible invasion of Lebanon to strike at Palestinian terrorists.

The apprehension of the infiltrators was revealed by the army

spokesman earlier on Sunday. (Page 2)

In a telegram to Premier Menachem Begin signed by herself and the mothers of 14 soldiers, MK Shulamit Aloni (CRM) called on the government to "choose a path other than war as long as there is an alternative." The women appealed to Begin not to send their children to fight "a needless war motivated solely by national honour or imaginary pride."

But MK Haim Druckman (NRP) took an opposite position. He called on the government to hit at the terrorists. "I too have a son in the army, and he is serving in the North. But Israel must make it clear that it will not allow Jewish blood to be shed."

One element of the tension in the North is the April 3 murder in Paris of an Israeli diplomat, 43-year-old Ya'acov Bar-Siman-Tov.

Israel continues to hold the PLO responsible for the slaying, and has appealed to governments

throughout the world to shut down PLO offices operating in their countries. (page 2)

Lebanon Saturday appealed to the U.S. for "urgent intervention" to rein in Israel, as Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasser Arafat warned that an Israeli invasion of South Lebanon and air attacks on Beirut were expected within 48 hours.

Lebanese President Elias Sarkis called in U.S. Ambassador Robert Dillon for a 30-minute conference at mid-morning to convey the appeal and seek U.S. "assurances and guarantees" that Israel would not invade Lebanon, a Lebanese government spokesman said.

Four hours later Dillon met Sarkis, Prime Minister Shafik Wazzan and Foreign Minister Fadi Butros and said the U.S. was "doing its best to see that the cease-fire is maintained."

Press reports in Beirut said Arafat's warning came during an

(Continued on Page 1)

Alarmed U.S. trying to avert attack

By WOLF BLITZER

WASHINGTON. — The U.S. at the weekend was continuing frantic efforts to head off a possible Israeli invasion into Lebanon.

U.S. officials, alarmed by what they said were extensive satellite reconnaissance photographs of Israeli troop movements along the Lebanese frontier, made a calculated decision on Friday to give extensive publicity in the U.S. news media to those intelligence reports, hoping they might succeed in preempting an Israeli assault.

U.S. television networks on Friday reported that two Israeli armoured divisions were poised to strike in the north. But on Saturday, ABC News weakened its earlier reports, saying that an Israeli strike was probably not imminent.

The New York Times quoted U.S.

officials as saying that Israel had moved captured Soviet-made tanks to the border and that some of its reserve units were taking over regular army positions, "freeing the regular units for possible use in an invasion."

The newspaper added that some naval commando reserve units had been called up in the last few days "and that some regular army officers and enlisted men have not been given their usual Passover leave."

The State Department Saturday reiterated the thrust of its Friday communique reporting "an increase in tension in the last few days."

"Once again we renew our appeal to all of those involved or with influence on those involved to show the utmost restraint," the U.S. statement said. "This is a time for

maximum caution. We, for our part, through our continuing contacts with a number of governments, are working energetically to encourage an end to all actions that contribute to tension and violence."

The Americans have been aroused by what they charged was Defence Minister Ariel Sharon's apparent push for a military invasion which would be designed to seriously weaken the PLO in Lebanon.

White House and State Department officials said that special U.S. envoy Philip Habib had no immediate plans to return to the region although they noted that he would be ready to do so if absolutely necessary to avert a collapse of the cease-fire along the Lebanese border. Habib helped negotiate that cease-fire last July.

Temple Mount sniper kills two

Jerusalem Post Staff

A bearded gunman dressed in an army uniform and armed with an M-16 rifle opened fire on Jerusalem's Temple Mount Sunday morning, killing two persons and wounding seven others, including two policemen.

Police said the gunman was apparently a soldier on reserve duty and identified him as of American origin and named Eli Gutman, 30, who settled in Israel six years ago.

The attack sparked an immediate wave of Muslim demonstrations and came as thousands of pilgrims were celebrating Easter Sunday around the Church

of the Holy Sepulchre, just 500 yards from the scene of the shooting. At the Western Wall abutting the Temple Mount, panic broke out among a large crowd of Jews celebrating the Pesach holiday.

One of the dead was said to be Jewish and the other a Muslim guard at the Mosque of Omar.

Eyewitnesses said the attacker

was stopped by guards at the gate to the Temple Mount compound at about 09:30 a.m. He began firing his M-16 rifle, then ran into the golden-domed Mosque of Omar and went on shooting. He was captured about 30 minutes later by a squad of Israeli border police.

The gunman was taken by am-

(Continued on Page 2)

NEWSSTAND PRICES IN LOCAL CURRENCY

Australia	\$1.20	Italy	Li.1,400
Canada	\$1.45	South Africa	Rd1.20
Denmark	DKR.00	Sweden	SKR.50
Germany	DM2.80	Switzerland	SFR.30
Holland	DFL.00	United Kingdom	60p
Israel	IL12.00	United States	\$1.25

HOME NEWS

Gun used to slay Israeli diplomat tied to 2 attacks

Israel continues to hold the Palestine Liberation Organization responsible for the murder of diplomat Ya'acov Bar-Simantov in Paris on April 3, sources in Jerusalem said last week.

"All the strings lead to the PLO," one official said.

This reaffirmation of who Israel holds responsible for the slaying followed a statement in Paris by French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson that there was no proof the PLO had been involved. Cheysson also ruled out Israel's proposal that the PLO's Paris office be closed.

According to Paris police, the weapon used to murder Bar-Simantov is the same one used in the Paris murder of another foreign diplomat and in an attack on a third.

An official report by police ballistics experts said that beyond doubt the same Czechoslovakian-made 7.65 mm automatic pistol was used in the ambushes which started last November.

A guerrilla group calling itself the "Lebanese Revolutionary Armed Faction" has claimed responsibility for all three attacks to news agencies in Beirut.

The experts' report said the same pistol killed U.S. military attaché Lieutenant-Colonel Charles Ray, on January 18 and in the attempt on the life of acting U.S. Ambassador Christian Chapman on November 12. Chapman escaped uninjured by diving behind a car.

In Riyadh, the Saudi state radio last condemned the slaying of Bar-Simantov as an "inhuman and illegal act."

Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, delivering a eulogy at Bar-Simantov's graveside in Holon on Monday of last week, vowed that Israel will continue its effort to destroy the terrorist organizations and their leaders.



Seated at last week's meeting between government and Labour Party leaders, from left, Prime Minister Menachem Begin; Eliahu Ben-Elissar, chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee; former prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, and Party chairman Shimon Peres. (Ruhumim Israeli)

Begin confers with Labour leaders

By SARAH HONIG
Post Political Reporter

TEL AVIV. — "Questions of foreign policy and defence" were the only topics raised last week when Prime Minister Menachem Begin conferred for two hours with the Labour Party leadership, party chairman Shimon Peres said after the afternoon session.

Peres refused to elaborate, but it transpired that this was the wording agreed upon by both sides before the meeting concluded. The substance of the discussions are being kept a closely guarded secret.

The meeting itself had given rise to speculation because often such meetings between Begin and Labour leaders presage either military or diplomatic campaigns.

Labour sources said that the issue of a national unity government was not raised, maintaining that their entry into a Likud-led coalition is not even being considered.

Apart from Begin, the government was represented by Defence Minister Ariel Sharon, Foreign

Minister Yitzhak Shamir, and the chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee, Eliahu Ben-Elissar. The Labour side included Peres, former prime minister Yitzhak Rabin and party secretary-general Haim Bar-Lev.

Despite the veil of secrecy, it is understood that the Paris murder of diplomat Ya'acov Bar-Simantov, attempted PLO infiltrations into Israel and a number of terrorist attacks thwarted by the security forces constituted the central topic of discussion at the meeting. The consensus was that there have been an increase in terrorist activity recently, even if many of the terrorists' operations ended in failure.

Peres told reporters that the "Bar-Simantov murder was a clear violation of the cease-fire, although I would not draw automatic conclusions from this."

Israel has been claiming that the murder was a breach of the cease-fire, while the U.S. State Department has stressed it does not consider the slaying of the Israeli diplomat such a violation.

It was noted that the last meeting between Begin and Peres took place some two months ago when Begin sought Labour's cooperation in denouncing U.S. intentions to sell advanced weaponry to Jordan.

Labour Party sources stressed no party forum is scheduled to take up the question of a national unity government.

Peres said nothing has changed since February when Labour rejected a similar overture. He repeated his party's stand that three conditions must exist before Labour could consider joining a broad coalition as Begin suggests — there must be a situation of national emergency, there must be a completely different government and its guidelines must be rephrased in order not to conflict with Labour Party principles.

Peres said he had "not heard the prime minister declare a state of emergency. There is absolutely nothing different about the present conditions from those which existed in February. There is simply no reason to establish a national unity government."

Terror squad is caught

Two Palestinian terrorists were captured Friday night after infiltrating into the West Bank from Jordan carrying weapons, grenades and explosives, the military spokesman announced on Sunday.

Israel regards such infiltrations as violations of the cease-fire that the U.S. worked out last July.

The military announcement said an army patrol discovered traces of infiltrators about midnight Friday. A terrorist squad apparently had crossed the Jordan River near the Israeli settlement of Argamani, about 50 kms north of Jerusalem. The Israeli troops pursued the terrorists and captured them.

The terrorists were carrying personal weapons, grenades and sabotage equipment, and belong to the al-Fatah arm of the Palestine Liberation Organization, the army spokesman said.

TENSION

(Continued from Page 1)

emergency conference he held with leaders of leftist Lebanese groups on Friday night after a day-long tour of terrorist positions in South Lebanon.

Arafat was quoted as saying that the urgency of the invasion threat had prompted him to cut short a visit he was making to Kuwait and instead to travel back to his Beirut headquarters to take personal charge of preparations to cope with the expected invasion.

The leftist newspaper *As-Safir* said Arafat had made urgent contacts with the Soviet leadership, Saudi Arabia and the Cuban presidency of the non-aligned nations, warning of an imminent Israeli attack in South Lebanon.

The newspaper quoted Arafat as saying he expected Israel to strike in three areas: Tyre (19 kilometres north of the Israeli frontier and 80 km. south of Beirut), the main terrorist-controlled Mediterranean port in Lebanon; the Nabatiyeh-Jarmak-Reihan triangle about 48 km inland, northeast of Tyre, where terrorists maintain a string of hilltop rocket-launching bases, including the Beaufort castle; and the coastal town of Damour, 25 km south of Beirut, where terrorists maintain several training bases and anti-aircraft positions. Near Damour, the PLO maintains SAM-7 missile batteries.

The PLO called for a partial mobilization of its Palestinian militia in Lebanon, as an armoured PLO battalion, equipped with Soviet T-34 tanks, was reported moving south. A number of roads leading to South Lebanon were closed to regular traffic by PLO units.

In Metulla, on Israel's side of the border, local and foreign journalists have taken over all available hotel space to be near events, should these develop.

Travellers arriving to Metulla from the northern area of south Lebanon report terrorists abandoning their positions and moving northward. Lebanese civilians have also reportedly left their homes along the coast south of Tyre.

THE WEATHER

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HOME NEWS

Egypt recalls envoy named in British espionage case



Egyptian Ambassador Sa'ad Mortada (right) confers last week with First Secretary Rifa' Ansari, shortly before Ansari was quietly recalled to Cairo. Ansari was recently cited in connection with the recall to London of Tel Aviv British Embassy staffer Rhona Ritchie, who is suspected of giving him classified information.

Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. — Egyptian Embassy sources here confirmed last week that first secretary Rifa' Ansari had terminated his tour of duty in Israel and returned last week to Cairo.

Ansari was named in the charge sheet before a London magistrate against Rhona Ritchie, the former first secretary at the British Embassy in Tel Aviv, as the person to whom she is alleged to have passed classified information. Ritchie was charged on March 18 and released on £10,000 bail. Until her trial, due to begin on April 27, she is confined to her parents' home in Scotland.

When the case became news last month, the Egyptian Embassy stood by its first secretary and Ansari continued to take part in official events, including the visit over a fortnight ago of Osama el-Baz, special adviser to President Hosni Mubarak. Moreover, senior Egyptian Embassy officials stressed that Ansari could not have been involved in any kind of intelligence work and that the entire affair seemed ridiculous.

Egyptian Ambassador Sa'ad Mortada said at the time that Ansari's contacts with Ritchie did not exceed "regular contacts" between



Rhona Ritchie

diplomats of different embassies. He said then that Ansari was carrying out his duties to the best of his ability.

Ansari was posted to the Egyptian Embassy in Israel last June following a three-year tour of duty in London, where he knew Ritchie. According to earlier reports, he apparently followed her deliberately to Tel Aviv. They were known here as close friends who often appeared together on social occasions.

It was not known what had caused the Egyptian Foreign Ministry to recall Ansari and if any action would be taken against him.

'Modest' burial agreed upon for Bar-Kochba warriors

By BENNY MORRIS
Jerusalem Post Reporter

The state funeral for the remains of the Bar-Kochba warriors found in Nahal Hever in 1960 by archaeologists is likely to be held as planned on May 11, Lag Ba'omer, following agreement by Minister Without Portfolio Yitzhak Moda'i to a compromise formula proposed by Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren for a "modest" interment ceremony.

Goren had initially proposed a full-scale state ceremony, with the participation of several companies of IDF soldiers and members of youth movements beside remains of the Roman siege camp above the Cave of Letters on Har Never. Prime Minister Menachem Begin had agreed to this in writing and reiterated his support subsequently.

But Moda'i, the chairman of the ministerial committee for symbols

and ceremonies, wrote to Premier Begin asking him to reconsider his decision, in the light of the expense that Goren's plan would involve, including the paving of a road to the Har Hever site. Moda'i suggested that the burial take place on the Mount of Olives.

Late Sunday night, however, Goren spoke with Moda'i and suggested that the ceremony — and the expenses — could be pared down but that Nahal Hever should be the venue. According to Goren, Moda'i agreed.

The new proposal will involve no excavation of a new burial pit but re-interment of the remains of the 19 skeletons discovered by Professor Yigael Yadin in the Cave of Letters, where they were found.

Goren said that his insistence on Nahal Hever is rooted in the *halacha*, (Jewish religious law) which gives preference to burial at the site of death.

Village League blamed for armed attack

By DAVID RICHARDSON
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Residents of Bethlehem and Beit Sahur last week claimed local village leagues were responsible for armed attacks there.

Five men with Uzi sub-machine guns were said to have beaten up a guard and the dean of students of Bethlehem University and then, continuing their rampage, attacked a religious club and coffee shop in neighbouring Beit Sahur.

Eye-witnesses claimed to have recognized three of the assailants as members of the local village league. They said the group used a Land-Rover such as is used by the leagues in their patrols in the area.

By the weekend, five days after the complaint was made, no one had been arrested.

The head of the Bethlehem area village league, Bishara Kumsiya, denied that members of his organization were involved in the attacks. Police suggested at one stage that "criminal elements" might be responsible.

Local residents are adamant that the attackers are from the local village league which have recently been armed and trained by the military authorities, ostensibly for self-defence. A local resident asked "Who else can drive around freely in a Land-Rover armed with Uzis?"

Much of the local opposition to the village leagues has stemmed from the belief that the leaders have recruited thugs who are now armed and are becoming something of a private militia. Stories of harassment, particularly of women, spot-checks and roadblocks have been circulating for several months in the towns and villages where the leagues operate.

Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij has cabled the prime minister and the defence minister demanding that the security forces protect the citizens of the area.

Meanwhile, 40 employees of the El-Bireh municipal council were rounded up over the weekend and were being held at the Ramallah police station, in an apparent attempt to force them to cooperate with the Israeli army officer appointed last month to serve as mayor.

Guard kills woman near ammo dump

A 40-year-old Arab woman was shot dead on Thursday of last week near the perimeter of a military base north of Ramallah, a military spokesman said.

Aziza Hussain Hamud of Ein Yabrud was tilling a field near the Beit El military complex when a soldier on guard duty opened fire, killing her instantly.

According to the military spokesman first indications are that the woman either did not hear or ignored the soldier's warning shouts as she approached a bunker used as an ammunition store. But the spokesman added that the soldier, who was doing his regular service, was being questioned.

Villagers from Ein Yabrud said last week that the woman was tilling a field of oats with four of her children when a single shot rang out, killing her.

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TEMPLE MOUNT SNIPER

(Continued from Page 1)

balance to Jerusalem police headquarters.

Soon after the shooting began, crowds of Moslem youths began throwing rocks and shouting anti-Israel slogans. They also threw stones at Israeli border police trying to get to the gunman, and also tossed rocks off the wall of the Temple Mount compound at people below.

Five Israelis were later injured on the nearby Mount of Olives when Arab mobs stoned their cars.

The attack was bound to inflame Arab-Jewish tensions, already running high over Israeli attempts to quash Palestinian nationalist activity in the West Bank.

Police moved swiftly to head off an outburst of anti-Israeli violence.

Hundreds of soldiers in flak jackets cleared the compound and sealed its gates. They also closed the plaza of the Western Wall, Judaism's holiest shrine, which abuts the Mount.

Ex-IDF chiefs oppose war in North

Two former army chiefs-of-staff, Haim Bar-Lev and Mordechai Gur, over the weekend came out against precipitate action against the PLO in Lebanon.

There are some issues which interest Israel very much — such as getting the Syrians and/or the terrorists out of Lebanon — but Israel still shouldn't go to war over them, MK Haim Bar-Lev, a former chief of staff and now secretary-general of the Labour Party, said Saturday.

Another former chief of staff, Labour MK Mordechai Gur, said Friday night that instead of looking for excuses to go to war, Israel should look for ways to negotiate

with Arab leaders in the administered areas willing to live alongside Israel. Gur, during an interview on Kol Israel's *Weekly Column* programme, said that the current situation in Lebanon doesn't warrant Israel's risking an all-out war with Syria which might not be limited to Lebanon or the Golan Heights.

"There's no such thing as destroying the terrorists once and for all," Bar-Lev said. "In 1970, we went into Lebanon, to the area which was then called Fa'alhand, and destroyed their infrastructure. It was quiet for a while, but they came back and rebuilt."

Eitan: All terror acts break cease-fire

An explosive device planted at a hitch-hiking station at Ma'ale Adumim is exactly the same as a shell fired at Avivim, Chief of Staff Rafael Eitan told the afternoon paper *Ma'ariv* in an interview published last week.

Eitan said that, from Israel's point of view, there was no difference if a terrorist threw a grenade in Gaza or fired a mortar shell at an Israeli settlement on the northern border. The technique was different but the significance was the same, said the chief of staff.

Eitan said that, from Israel's point

of view, the cease-fire was not being carried out. The terrorists had recently stepped up their activities on the borders, in Judea and Samaria and abroad.

The Israel government had made it clear that the cease-fire must apply to attacks anywhere, said Eitan, whereas the terrorists said it only applied to South Lebanon.

The chief of staff admitted that a clash with the terrorists in Lebanon could lead to a confrontation with Syria. It was very difficult to predict Syrian behaviour, he observed.

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Golan Druse strike focuses on ID cards

By YOEL DAR
Jerusalem Post Reporter

MAJDAL SHAMS. — The general strike in the Golan Druse villages continued last week in spite of the removal of the roadblocks ending the military siege.

All but about 200 workers stayed home, and shops and schools were closed. Farmers and shepherds who unofficially would have broken the strike did not leave their homes due to bad weather.

The pro-Syrian groups claim the strike will continue for an indefinite period, this time to protest against the government which "compelled us to accept identity cards forcibly."

Because of the end of the military siege, Druse could leave their villages without military permits. Outside the villages, however, civilian policemen examined their documents, sending back those without identity cards after writing out a complaint against them. They are to be tried later.

A police source said the Golan Druse villages remained calm last week, although there is still considerable tension. Dozens of identity cards were spotted scattered on the ground. Officials admitted that an unknown number of residents had torn up their identity cards, but also said that some Druse left their identity cards near their homes but collected them later, especially at night. The officials said they did so to avoid verbal clashes with the pro-Syrian groups, which have sworn to return the cards to the Interior Ministry.

The spiritual leader of the Golan Druse, Sheikh Salman Taher Abu

Saleh, was quoted by the Rakah (Communist) spokesman last weekend as supporting the Druse strike.

The Rakah spokesman also said that Sheikh Salman Taher told the Communist delegation that he has returned his ID card to the Interior Ministry. This statement contradicts rumours that the sheikh decided to keep his ID card and that some members of his family have thanked the government for its "generosity" in giving them ID cards.

A Rakah delegation which included three MKs — Meir Wilner, Charlie Biton and Tewfik Zayyad — with the addition of advocate Felicia Langer, who represents almost all of the Druse administrative detainees, visited the sheikh at his residence. It was the Communist leaders' second visit to the Golan in four weeks.

Also over the weekend, Israeli Druse held several public meetings backing their co-religionists. Government sources said the growing support of Israeli Druse for their Golan brethren could have far-reaching consequences for relations with the Jewish population of Israel.

Sheikh Salman Taher was previously reported to have been one of the Druse religious leaders who imposed a ban on all those cooperating with Rakah on the grounds that communist doctrine was inconsistent with Druse belief.

The sheikh is also quoted by the Rakah spokesman as saying he would "shake the hand of any Israeli, regardless of his politics, if he supports the struggle against the ID cards."

Seven hurt in Gaza attack

By JOSHUA BRILLIANT
Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. — Seven Israelis were injured last week when terrorists threw hand grenades at their civilian van as they drove through Gaza.

A woman soldier and a civilian suffered what the IDF spokesman described as "medium injuries" and were rushed to a hospital. The others were injured lightly and were treated at the scene.

According to reports from Gaza, the vehicle, a Ford Transit, was at-

tacked as it passed near Medina Square.

One grenade was thrown inside the van, where it exploded, injuring the passengers. A second missed the vehicle and exploded near an Arab-owned car parked nearby. No-one was hurt by the second explosion, the IDF said.

On March 25, Rav-Samir Rishon Pinhas Grossmark was killed near Medina Square when a hand grenade exploded in a Ford Transit in which he was travelling. Three other passengers were injured.

Naor storms out of hearing

Former cabinet secretary Arye Naor disrupted disciplinary proceedings against him last week when he stormed out of the hearing room in protest over a charge that he had written a letter "with corrupt intent."

Naor is being tried by a Civil Service court for allegedly leaking sensitive information to columnist-cartoonist Raanan Lurie.

Naor's attorney, Yehzekel Beinisch, introduced a letter from the Shin Bet (security services) attesting that it had not investigated the charges against Naor, as Lurie had alleged.

The incident began when District Attorney Michael Kirsh said that a letter by Naor to the Axel Springer organization in West Germany, about his connections with Lurie, had been written "with corrupt intent."

Naor then stormed out of the room, slamming the door, and say-

ing, "It's beneath my dignity to respond to this." Beinisch immediately apologized to the startled judges, but then Naor returned saying "It's one thing to hear lies from Lurie, but from a government official as well?"

Court president Yoel Aloni explained to Naor that the fact that he was being tried meant that there were questions about his behaviour. Naor persisted: "I know that the district attorney thinks otherwise. I intend to take certain steps ... I protest the expression 'corrupt intent'."

Beinisch: "I apologize on behalf of Naor and request that the matter be regarded as closed."

Judge Shlomo Guberman: "This amounts to an affront to the court and an apology won't suffice. We can't carry out our job in this atmosphere of insults."

Calm was eventually restored and the hearing continued. (Iim)



Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek points out to his counterpart from West Berlin, Governing Mayor Eilhard von Weizsäcker, from a balcony of city hall last week, the pre-1967 line that divided East and West Jerusalem. Von Weizsäcker said he hoped to help West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt and Premier Menachem Begin "overcome the personality conflicts between them." After meeting with Begin, the visiting mayor said he found the premier "friendly, constructive and cordial," and noted that extensive cultural relations now exist between Berlin and a number of Israeli communities and institutions. Eight of Berlin's 17 boroughs, he said, had twinning relations with Israeli cities, and Berlin maintains extensive youth exchange programmes with Israel. (Zoom 77)

Huge phosphate strike in Negev

By CHARLES HOFFMAN
Jerusalem Post Reporter

An enormous bed of high-quality phosphates discovered east of Beersheba by geologists from the Energy Ministry is likely to give Israel a significant competitive edge in world phosphate markets, the ministry spokesman said last week.

The deposit, which contains between 40 and 200 million tons, is the largest ever discovered in Israel. It was found last year during a country-wide phosphate survey undertaken by the ministry's Geological Institute and the Earth Sciences Research Administration.

The ministry geologists have established that the deposit contains at least 40 million tons, and a final

stage of tests in the area, to begin next month, will show if the amount reaches 200 million tons, as geologists believe it may.

The phosphates contain 31 to 34 per cent phosphoric oxide, which geologists consider to be a rich find. In addition, the deposit is very close to the surface, which makes the mineral very easy to extract. The high quality and ease of extraction make the find very promising in economic terms.

The Negev Phosphate Company estimates that it will take about four years until the deposit can be commercially exploited.

Like other phosphate deposits, this one also contains uranium, which is very expensive to extract directly. Only if the raw material is first converted to phosphoric acid can the uranium be extracted at a reasonable cost.

Border policeman, stabbed in Jenin, dies of wounds

AFULA (Iim). — Assad Halabi, the border policeman who was stabbed while patrolling in Jenin during last month's disturbances, died last week of his wounds in Afula Hospital. Halabi, 41, of the Druse village of Yirka in Western Galilee, is survived by his wife and eight children.

Halabi, on duty with a group of border policemen in Jenin on March 24, tried to prevent a young man from inciting merchants in the central market to lock up their shops and strike. The man, who was later identified as Fadhi Kanouh, a known terrorist wanted by the security authorities, suddenly pulled out a dagger and stabbed Halabi twice in the back.

Halabi's colleagues immediately opened fire and killed Kanouh on the spot.

Diplomat Moshe Yuval dies in Jerusalem

Moshe Yuval, a veteran member of the Jewish Agency's political department and one of the first officers of Israel's diplomatic service, died in Jerusalem of a heart attack last week.

Yuval was born in Dvinsk, Latvia, on September 24, 1913, the son of Zalman and Hava Zimbel. As a member of a Zionist youth movement, he came to Palestine in 1932,

Sharper definition now of conflict of interest for MKs

By ASHER WALLFISH
Jerusalem Post Correspondent

New rules on prevention of conflict of interest with respect to Knesset Members, which could revolutionize the conduct of many MKs, have been approved by a special sub-committee of the House Committee. But to be effective, the rules would have to be written into law — which is the sub-committee's intention at some future date.

One of the rules stipulates that an MK shall not conduct a transaction, directly or indirectly, nor advise another person with regard to a transaction, on the basis of prior information, secret information, or any other information reaching the

MK within the course of his parliamentary functions. An MK would be obliged to declare his personal interest in any decision or measure whereby some benefit or privilege is conferred, and he would be barred from taking part in that decision or measure, unless they involve an entire group or economic sector to which the MK belongs.

An MK would be barred from "exploiting his status as an MK in order to promote his private business affairs."

One rule which seems so self-evident as not to require spelling out, is rule nine, which bars an MK from "intervening in a court case."

Actors protest against 'Great Whore'

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Deputy Education Minister Miriam Glazer-Ta'asa last week praised the two actors of the Cameri Theatre who had demanded that the theatre stop showing Hanoch Levin's controversial play *The Great Whore of Babylon*.

Actors Yossi Yadin and Yehuda Fuchs reportedly demanded that the public council, which has responsibility for the Cameri, vote to stop showing the play. The play contains scenes depicting cannibalism and nudity.

The two actors led a protest walkout of the Cameri actors and others who attended the play's rehearsal.

Glazer-Ta'asa said that the play crossed the narrow line between artistic freedom and depravity, and blasted the Cameri directors for "abandoning their elementary obligation to the public" by putting on the play.

The play was staged without any cuts after the Theatre and Film Censorship Board two weeks ago removed its restrictions on complete nudity.



Three-year-old Sarit of Jerusalem takes a pre-Pessah bite of a matza shmurra (matza especially prepared for the very strictly observant). (Elihu Harari)

Thousands of Israelis flock to Eilat for Pessah holiday

Jerusalem Post Staff
More than 100,000 festival visitors poured into Eilat during the Pessah holiday and weekend, with half of them continuing 40 kilometres southward to Mitzpe Shalem, beyond which the area has been closed to civilians.

The beaches along the gulf southward of Tabat were dotted with tents of thousands of bathers. The Tabat beach was littered with rubbish.

Throughout Friday and Saturday, vehicular traffic continued to move through the Arava on the way to Eilat.

The IDF exploited the heavy traffic to retrieve illegally held arms and equipment. The haul, sufficient to fill four command cars, included sleeping bags, tents, blankets, mattresses and parkas. Civilians found with this equipment were allowed to continue their journeys and will not be charged.

For housewives, preparing for Pessah meant a massive cleaning effort that began in many homes weeks ago and culminated Tuesday evening with the traditional search for leaven with the help of a candle and a feather.

Like most householders, the Jerusalem Municipality worked overtime to clean up the city in time for the holiday. Working in double shifts, sanitation workers were going over public areas by hand and in mechanical sweepers, and collecting bulky discarded items by telephone appointment. Special

attention was given to the Mahaneh Yehuda, Mea Shearim and Bokeran Quarter open-air markets.

IDF rabbinical units were completing the immense job of making kitchens and pots kosher for Pessah. The seder meal was conducted wherever soldiers are stationed, and individual seder kits were distributed to those who cannot take part in group ceremonies.

Thousands of new immigrants were invited to 28 sederim being organized by the Jewish Agency and the Absorption Ministry.

The security authorities urged the public to be especially wary of suspicious objects left in public areas during the holiday and to report them immediately to the police.

On Friday, devout Christians from all over the world, many shouldering large wooden crosses, retraced Jesus' path to Calvary in a procession along Jerusalem's Via Dolorosa inside the Old City.

Israeli soldiers kept watch and cleared a path through the narrow streets as thousands of pilgrims made their way in small groups, stopping at the 14 stations of the Cross for Good Friday devotions. The processions ended at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre where services continued throughout the day.

On Sunday, carrying palm fronds and singing "hosanna," thousands of Christian pilgrims retraced the steps of Jesus down the Mount of Olives to celebrate Palm Sunday.

'Repeat Dive' wins quality film prize

Jerusalem Post Reporter
Repeat Dive, a film by Shimon Dotan and Amos Mokadi, has won the first prize for Israeli quality films this year.

The IS400,000 prize was awarded last week at a ceremony in

Jerusalem's Cinematheque by Trade and Industry Minister Gideon Pat.

The second prize, consisting of IS200,000, was divided between two films, *Noa* at 17 by Yitzhak Yezhurin and *A Thousand Little Kisses* by Mira Recanat.

Three teams 'in' on State Cup semi-finals

By PAUL KOHN
Post Sports Reporter

TEL AVIV. — Betar Jerusalem, Hapoel Tel Aviv and Hapoel Beersheba Saturday fought their way into the State Cup semi-finals. The fourth place will be taken by either Maccabi Haifa or Hapoel Yehud, who Saturday played to a 0-0 draw before 6,000 in Haifa.

In the semi-finals, on May 5, Hapoel Tel Aviv play Hapoel Beersheba and Betar Jerusalem play either Maccabi Haifa or Hapoel Yehud.

Betar Jerusalem won their place among the last four with a goal by Hanan Azulai in the 75th minute in their match against Hapoel Rishon Lezion played before 5,000 at the YMCA Stadium. Azulai beat Efraim Wulman from close range after Uri Malmilian delivered the vital pass to him.

Betar fully deserved their win and their fans will be most happy with the emergence of a new star quality player in 17-year-old Avi Cohen, who showed splendid ball control in mid-field.

Hapoel Tel Aviv came from behind to beat Maccabi Petah Tikva 3-1, in Petah Tikva. In the 12th minute, Simon Davidson gave the home team the lead after a defence-splitting pass by Doron Rabinson. Hapoel piled on most of the pressure following that goal, and, after missing many fine scoring chances, Shabtai Levy finally put them level in the 37th minute.

But it was only in the 80th minute that Eli Cohen headed Hapoel into the lead from a Yaacov Eckhaus free kick. Then, two minutes later Maurice Jano clinched the result from a Gil Landau pass.

Hapoel Beersheba were all over Second Division Ramat Gan Hakoah but it was not until early in the second half that Ovadia Zvi gave them the lead. In the 69th and 75th minutes, Eli Weizmann notched two further goals for Beersheba, and stopper Haim Franko added a fourth a minute before the end. Veteran Meir Barad and 20-year-old Weizman were the best players in the home team.

Israeli-African games

TEL AVIV. — Increased co-operation between Israel and black Africa on fields of sport was agreed upon at a meeting in Paris last week between Hapoel Secretary-General Yitzhak Ofek and Sam Ramsamy, Chairman of the influential London-based South African non-racial Olympic Committee. SANROC and external representative of the anti-apartheid South African Council of Sport.

MACCABI MUSEUM

By JACK LEON
RAMAT GAN. — The Pierre Gildesgame Maccabi Museum will be opened at Kfar Hamaccabiah here on April 21, at the close of the 19th Maccabi World Congress.

The three-storey museum covers the 90-year history of Jewish gymnastics and sport in fascinating detail. It commemorates former long-time Maccabi World Union President Pierre Gildesgame, of London, who was killed in a road accident a year ago. The Curator is archivist Arthur Hanak.

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Scant attendance at final Yamit seder

Jerusalem Post Staff

Seder night passed quietly at Yamit on Wednesday night, the only surprise being the small turnout at the Stop the Withdrawal Movement's communal service at the town's occupied war memorial. Only some 200 persons turned up to share the feast with Tehiya MKs Geula Cohen, Hanan Porat and Yuval Ne'eman, instead of the 2,000 predicted by the movement.

Elsewhere in the country, most families gathered in private homes for the traditional seder, commemorating a much earlier exodus from Egypt, that of the Israelites, led by Moses, over 3,000 years ago. On Mt. Gerizim overlooking the West Bank town of Nablus, the ancient community of Samaritans also celebrated Pesach in its own traditional way, with the sacrifice of a lamb.

Thursday, thousands of Israelis headed for the outdoors in all parts of the country to see the annual spring display of wild flowers and to enjoy other forms of recreation. Hotels in every city and town are reported full with both local and foreign guests. The Tourism Ministry estimates that 105,000 visitors have arrived from abroad.

The foreigners include many Christians who have come to celebrate Easter, in the Holy Land.

Ben-Gurion Airport was jammed on Wednesday with incoming and outgoing passengers. The situation was compounded by a go-slow strike of airport refuellers.

In Beit-Shean, pupils at the ORT

religious high school collected 156,000, with which they purchased various food items for Pesach and distributed them to 40 needy families in the town.

In another holiday gesture, prison service commissioner Mordechai Wertheimer hosted current and recently released prisoners at his Jerusalem office together with other officials from the service, in a pre-Pesach toast on Wednesday morning.

Another convict, however celebrated the seder at the Abu Kahir lockup in Jaffa after he was caught trying to steal a car in Tel Aviv. The man, 29, had been given leave from Ma'asiyahu Prison to spend Pesach with his family.

While most of the country's residents were eating *matzot* and telling the story of the Exodus, police were on double duty to deter burglars hoping to take advantage of many families' absence from home. One theft of 80 chickens from a storeroom in Tel Aviv was reported, and in Tel Aviv's Hatikva Quarter a flat was burned down while its occupants were attending a seder nearby. A dispute with former owners of the apartment is suspected as the reason for the fire.

A steady stream of cars brought an estimated 60,000 vacationers to Eilat for the holiday. Most of them continued further south along the Red Sea coast, for the last Pesach there under Israeli control. The area was opened only as far south as Mitzpe Shalem, some 65 km. from Eilat.

Yamit: The final act

By ROBERT ROSENBERG

Special to The Jerusalem Post
SINAI'S wild winds swept into the last community of Jews still there on the eve of Pesach.

Sand that had once been held at a distance by gardens, roads and endless sweeping has crept up on the outlying roads. A two-storey villa, overlooking green gardens and fields of a moshav, is now a skeleton. Windows, doors, roof, interior walls have all been removed. Somewhere between Pesach and Remembrance Day a bulldozer will demolish the skeleton.

And in the town of Yamit, which promised its residents a better life than in smog-ridden Tel Aviv, or traffic-congested Jerusalem, packs of teenagers with *kippot* and the beginning of beards wander the streets. They hold books of religion and exchange stories of how they dodged army patrols. Some of them had broken into apartments or blockhouse-like cottages. Some make use of sleeping-bags; others stay up and hope for the arrival of soldiers, and the confrontation that will assist their future in politics.

"It's a ghost town," says one Yamit founder, who's still to sign the agreement about compensation.

"It's the Wild West," says a reporter who is covering the town.

THE OBSTINATE founder of Yamit talks about living in the "here and now." He's avoiding thinking about the past and future. The future, in particular, worries him. But he was born in Siberia and has lived through a lot. "I'll manage," he says. "I don't need the room at

the Beersheba Absorption Centre or a tent at the Walling Wall, or outside the Knesset."

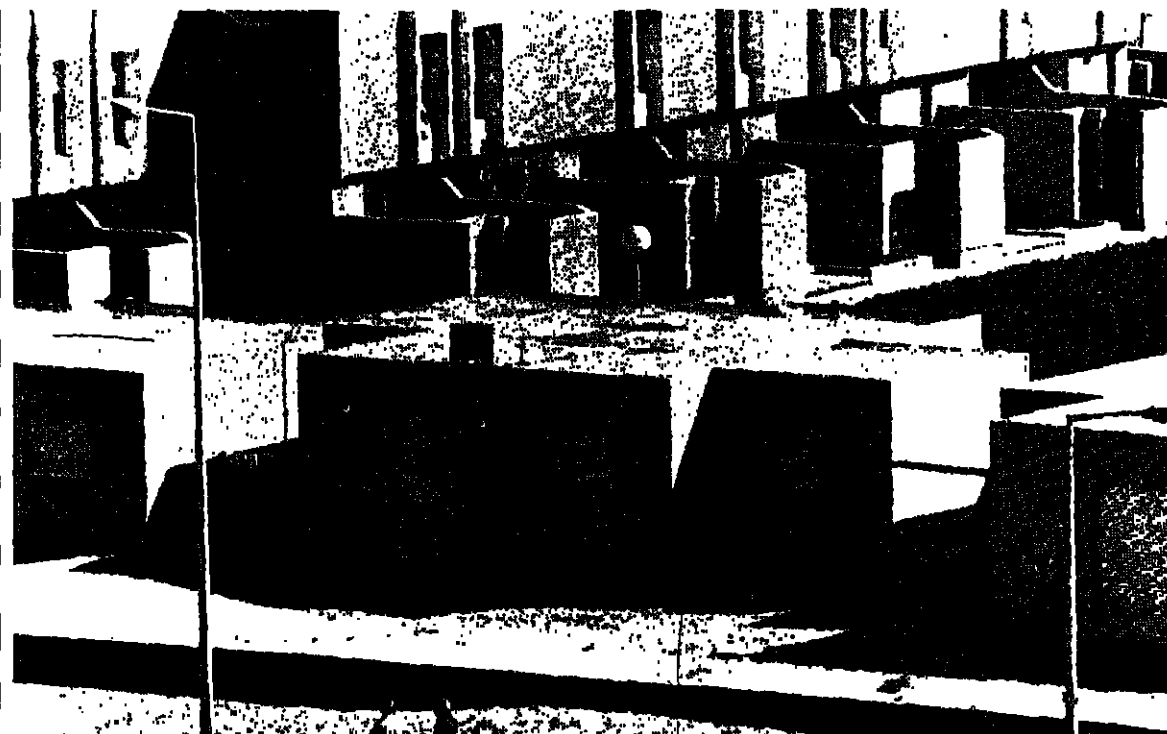
When we pull into town we see about 75 teenagers crowding around Kol Israel's mobile broadcasting station, a dark-green van parked not far from the war memorial that Geula Cohen's son and his friends have occupied.

"Parasites, liars," the teenagers are shouting, led by a Golan resident whose wife became famous when she was filmed screaming as a pair of women soldiers tried to pry her loose from one of the wooden frame windows at Hatza Adar. Somebody has crawled into the broadcasting van, and threatens to pluck the wires out.

THE ENTIRE showdown in Yamit is clearly for the journalists. Everybody needs them. The prime minister needs them to prove that he means what he says about giving back Sinai — that's what the cranes working 24 hours a day, at a cost of as many millions as the value of the property they are relocating to the north are all about.

EARLY IN the morning the Beduin women are in the drying wheat fields between Yamit and Sadot. They pick the green stalks. Graceful in their black robes, they pick the green stalks. As I pass in the car they lift the corner of their hoods to cover their faces. A little boy sits on a camel watching the traffic and the hitchhiking protesters against the withdrawal.

"Where do you want to go?" I ask one of the hitchhikers. "North, out of here," he says.



One of the few remaining Yamit families walk past shuttered-up homes of people who have left. (UPI)

Abdication of leadership

The Post's YOSEF GOELL in this opinion piece takes the government to task for failing to provide moral support to the Sinai settlers 'who came as pioneers and now feel abandoned.'

IN THE WEEK of the commemoration of ancient Israel's Exodus from Egypt, it is safe to predict that in less than three weeks modern Israel will have completed its third withdrawal from Egyptian Sinai.

The late Anwar Sadat's insistence on the return of every last inch of "holy Egyptian soil" and his readiness to compromise temporarily — in deed if not in word — over Menachem Begin's own dedication to the "holy tie" between Israel and the ancestral territories of Judea and Samaria, determined the nature of the peace agreement between the two countries.

Sadat also bequeathed a reading of Israel and its leader to his successors, which has proved to be accurate: Begin is a hard man to bargain with, but a man of his word in honouring agreements.

It is only right to stress again and again Israel's determination to adhere to the peace agreement, despite the replacement of the early, one-sided euphoria in Israel with a much more realistic appreciation of the limits of peace in the light of reality.

THE REAL COST to Israel's security — or the benefit to its deep interest in an abiding peace with the Arabs — that is entailed in ceding all of Sinai to Egypt, will only become clear in time. The psychological costs of some ostensibly marginal spin-offs from the withdrawal process, however, are already becoming evident.

It may even be that in the long run some of these by-products will have a lasting and profound effect, perhaps equal to that of the withdrawal itself. Consider the following:

□ The Abdication of Leadership: During my periodic visits to the Yamit and Rafiah Salient areas over the past three years, one question invariably cropped up: "Why hasn't Begin come to talk to us and be with us in our hour of need?"

Indeed, one of the gnawing questions surrounding these difficult three-and-a-half years has to do with this very impression of an abdication of leadership and respon-

sibility the wake of a traumatic decision.

Not only has Begin failed to appear in Yamit to offer moral support and leadership to settlers who came as pioneers and now feel abandoned, his ministers and other government leaders have also been conspicuously absent.

This abdication of political leadership and responsibility was made all the more obvious recently when President Yitzhak Navon visited Yamit to perform the very function that Begin should have taken upon himself.

In 1956, Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion waxed lyrical over the prospect of a Great Israel Commonwealth which he believed had been opened up by the whirlwind conquest of Sinai that fall.

When it became clear several months later that Israel would have to evacuate every inch of Sinai and the Gaza Strip, which had been used as a base for murderous *fedayeen* attacks on helpless Israeli civilians, Ben-Gurion took the lead in explaining to the people, over and over again, the painful, but realistic, facts of political life which compelled Israel to return to its pre-October 1956 lines.

That was an example of how leadership should function in adversity.

The present decision to return all of Sinai to Egypt and to withdraw from the Yamit area was the civilian equivalent of a military decision to tactically retreat. In long wars, such retreats are often essential for the eventual attainment of broader, long-term strategic objectives.

In such situations, the role of leadership in maintaining morale and in inspiring continued dedication to the larger goals is particularly crucial.

□ Money grubbing and the plague of lawyers: Yamit is not the first area of Jewish settlement from which Israel has had to withdraw. There were Ma'abar Hayarden, Neve Ya'acov and Atarot, Gush Etzion and Beit Ha'arava and the Jewish Quarter of the Old City of Jerusalem, during the 1948 War of

Independence.

There were real Israeli war refugees then and civilian prisoners-of-war who had to be repatriated from captivity in Jordan. All were compensated and helped to start new lives, within the limits of the slim capacities of the dirt-poor, newly born State of Israel. But there was no money-grubbing then.

□ A return to *Oy Vekh Yidism*: For close to 2,000 years of exile, during which Jews were nearly unique in their powerlessness, they developed the habit of collectively groaning *Oy Vekh!* as an alternative to action after every national calamity.

The disdain for the Diaspora which early Zionist settlers inculcated into their children was a reflection of their determination to transform Jews into masters of their own collective fate.

One of the impressive achievements which followed the creation of the State of Israel was the psychological change which infused Jewish immigrants from the Diaspora with just such a sense of their own power and of a mastery over their own fate.

There has been a great deal of empty posturing among the chest-beaters, statement-issuers and threateners within the anti-withdrawal movement.

One of the dangers entailed in this posturing is the premium the anti-withdrawal leaders have put on the education of their naive young followers in a belief in miracles, the power of the word, and in the politics of unreason and unreality.

This penchant constitutes a dangerous retreat from the mixture of sweeping idealism laced with hard political realism which proved so effective in achieving the first stage of the Zionist goal of Jewish self-determination.

It is essential for people who are engaged in a protracted war of survival to emphasize unity and to maintain a high level of morale even in temporary adversity.

If this is too much to ask of the anti-withdrawal activists, it is the least one must expect from the government of the day.

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CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CONDITION OF THE BANK
AND ITS SUBSIDIARIES AS AT 31ST DECEMBER, 1981

ASSETS	(In thousands)	
	Sheqels	U.S. Dollars
Cash and balances with Banks	125,078,876	8,015,770
Securities	22,797,248	1,460,978
Deposits with and loans to the government	64,614,821	4,140,887
Loans	66,157,172	4,239,730
Loans out of deposits for the granting of loans	18,905,422	1,211,568
Other accounts	1,777,809	113,933
Bank premises and equipment	815,633	52,270
Liabilities of customers	17,181,695	1,101,101
	<u>317,328,676</u>	<u>20,336,237</u>
LIABILITIES		
Deposits	230,094,172	14,745,751
Deposits for the granting of loans	19,132,376	1,226,112
Debentures issued by subsidiaries	37,751,735	2,419,347
Other accounts	2,075,691	133,022
Liabilities on account of customers	17,181,695	1,101,101
Capital, reserves and surplus	3,638,891	233,201
Capital notes — convertible into shares of the Bank	1,282,993	82,222
Interest of outside shareholders	674,583	43,231
Non-convertible bonds and capital notes	5,496,540	352,250
	<u>317,328,676</u>	<u>20,336,237</u>

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF PROFIT AND LOSS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDING ON 31.12.81

	(In thousands)	
	Sheqels	U.S. Dollars
Operating profit before taxation	3,035,913	194,559
Provision for taxation on Operating profit	1,568,056	100,490
	<u>1,467,857</u>	<u>94,069</u>
The Bank's Equity in Undistributed After Tax Profits of Unconsolidated Subsidiaries	20,819	1,334
Operating profit, before deduction of outside shareholders' interest	1,488,676	95,403
Outside shareholders' interest in operating profit	269,927	17,298
Operating profit, before non-operating income and expenses	1,218,749	78,105
Non-operating expenses, net, after related taxes and outside shareholders' interest	(27,461)	(1,760)
	<u>1,191,288</u>	<u>76,345</u>
NET PROFIT		

(Exchange rate on 31/12/81 — \$1.00 = 1515.6041)

The Bank Leumi Group has 449 branches, subsidiaries and representative offices worldwide, including 64 overseas.

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bank leumi בנק לאומי

Banks dodge liquidity regulations

Post Economic Reporter

In the last two months the country's commercial banks have used loopholes in Bank of Israel regulations to support the prices of their shares amounting to some IS3.5 billion, with the result that they exceeded the central bank's credit ceilings by about IS2b. To do so the banks circumvented liquidity regulations, *The Jerusalem Post* learned last week.

To support their shares, the banks had to import some \$150 million from overseas, which they converted into Israeli currency and transferred to their subsidiaries — mutual funds, affiliated companies and others — which then used the

money to buy up the banks' shares. One of the ways in which the banks avoided high penalties for exceeding the official liquidity ratios — the amount of credit they are permitted to grant against cash deposits — was by retroactively buying, on behalf of large customers receiving cash, Negotiable Deposit Certificates (TAPAS).

These have lower liquidity requirements than regular current accounts, so that the banks were able to show higher liquidity ratios in their weekly statements to the Bank of Israel, and thereby avoided the high penalties involved in exceeding them. At the same time the banks were able to use more of the cash at their disposal for credits granted to

support their share prices.

The Bank of Israel only recently issued instructions to the commercial banks forbidding this practice.

According to well-placed sources in the Bank of Israel, some commercial banks also seem to have camouflaged part of their free credit market loans by channelling such credit through affiliated specialized financial institutions. Credit ceilings apply only to regular free loans granted by the commercial banks, and not to credits extended by specialized banks.

The Bank of Israel has now decided to scrutinize more closely the entire range of credit operations of these specialized banks.



Rumanian-Jewish engineer Ilya Adrian, who recently held a hunger strike to get an exit permit to Israel, is greeted at Ben-Gurion Airport last week by the Jewish Agency's Immigration Department chief Raphael Kotowitz. In the center are Adrian's wife Semilia and one of their two daughters who arrived with him. After refusing to give Adrian a permit for two years, the Rumanian authorities relented when he stopped eating for 15 days in January. Adrian's uncle, a senior Rumanian official, reportedly tried to prevent his nephew from immigrating to Israel. Adrian's wife, an electrical engineer, told reporters they had left her parents and her in-laws in Rumania. "It wasn't an easy decision," she said, "but our place is in Israel."

Aguda delays pressure for changes at El Al

By SARAH HONIG
Post Political Reporter

TEL AVIV. — Agudat Yisrael has agreed to give the government a respite of a few more weeks before pressing their demand that El Al operations be shut down on Saturdays. The Aguda originally requested that the national carrier stop flying on the Sabbath as of the Pessah holiday.

Last week, however, Aguda MKs Avraham Shapira and Shlomo Lorincz met with Prime Minister Menachem Begin who requested more time. Begin explained that the special committee studying the implications of ending the airline's Saturday operations has not yet completed its task and has not yet submitted its findings or recommendations.

In any case, Begin stressed that he personally supports the Aguda demand and that he has undertaken to discontinue Saturday flights no

matter what the committee recommends. The government is under no obligations to accept these recommendations, but having appointed the committee, it would at least consider its findings, Begin said.

This satisfied the Aguda leaders, who said after the meeting that there is no harm in acceding to Begin's request.

Shapira had a suggestion for El Al: "If the airline ended charter flights, it would more than recoup its losses. I am an experienced businessman and I know what I am talking about. I am sure that the company employees would prefer a free Saturday if it were a choice between that and charter flights."

Meanwhile, the Tourism Council has called on the government to reconsider its decision to stop El Al flights on Saturdays, saying that such a stoppage would seriously hurt tourism, in particular efforts to increase Israel's share of the international congress market.

80% increase in Co-L set for April pay

Post Economic Reporter

Wage earners will get an 80 per cent Cost-of-Living allowance without additional increases in their April pay, the Histadrut's Secretary-General Yeroham Meshel and a representative of the Manufacturers' Association agreed last week. The Co-L allowance is based on wage agreements which officially expired on March 31.

Meshel also proposed that wage earners get a special 5 per cent compensation for inflation-induced erosion of their salaries during the first quarter of the year.

The agreement represents a victory for the Treasury which has been demanding moderate wage increases and has been threatening to reduce cheap credit to manufacturers if they make what the Treasury considers excessive concessions to the Histadrut during the wage negotiations.

Police reveal they have body of murder victim

TEL AVIV (Him). — A local judge last week cancelled the order forbidding publication of the fact that the body of Shulamit Sheli has been discovered buried in the Caesarea sand dunes.

Three more suspects in the murder of Nahmias and Sheli last year were detained for 10 days on Wednesday by the Tel Aviv Magistrates Court.

One of the suspects, Lillian Boskila, 30, of Jaffa, was arrested on Monday evening just as she was about to board a flight to Europe. The other two, Nissim and Aliza Shvili, are from Zuhala.

Last week, police arrested Shmaya Angel, Tel Aviv's reputed drug boss, on suspicion that he helped plan the double murder. Police believe Boskila was a friend of Sheli.

Sheli's body was found buried in

Egypt urges mutual recognition

By DAVID BERNSTEIN
Post Middle East Affairs Reporter
and Agencies

Egypt scored a significant victory at the Non-Aligned Foreign Ministers' Conference in Kuwait last week when it reportedly defeated a PLO bid to have its peace treaty with Israel condemned in the conference's final communique.

According to agency reports from Kuwait, delegates to the conference said the final communique would express only "concern" over efforts to enforce those provisions of the Camp David accords which sought to determine the future of the Palestinian people against their will. It would not follow the precedent of the 1979 non-aligned conference in Havana and condemn both the Israel-Egypt treaty and the Camp David accords — as requested by PLO delegate Farouk Kaddoumi.

This was clearly a victory for Egypt, which was attending its first major international conference in

an Arab capital since the signing of the peace treaty in March 1979.

Cairo sets considerable store by regaining a leading role in the non-aligned movement, of which it is a founding member, to end its diplomatic isolation in the Arab world.

Egypt's chief delegate, Ismat Abdel-Meguid, is also reported to have told newsmen in Kuwait that a "large number" of the delegates attending the conference — particularly those from Latin America and Africa — supported Egypt's proposal for "mutual and simultaneous recognition" between Israel and the Palestinians.

Abdel-Meguid made this proposal in his speech before the conference on Tuesday night, without specifically mentioning the PLO in this connection. He did, however, defend the principle of self-determination and statehood for the Palestinians, and stressed the Arab nature of East Jerusalem.

Syria-Iraq border sealed

DAMASCUS. — Syria announced last week it was closing its border with Iraq until further notice because, it said, the Baghdad government had been sending saboteurs and weapons into Syrian territory.

A government statement declared, "Syria has been patient for a long time and has endured much as a result of these acts, but it has finally had to take the step of closing the border with Iraq to safeguard security."

Damascus and Baghdad are ruled by rival wings of the Ba'ath Socialist Party and have been at loggerheads, with occasional reconciliations, for

more than a decade. But tension between them has reached new heights over the last 19 months with Syria supporting Iran against Iraq in the Gulf war.

This latest action follows a month-long campaign by the Syrian government accusing Iraq of sending saboteurs with car bombs and consignments of weapons and explosives across the border.

Damascus on Saturday shut down an Iraqi pipeline that pumps crude oil from Iraq's northern oil fields to Mediterranean shipping terminals in Syria and Lebanon, a Syrian official source said. (Reuters, AP)

Arabs set fund-raising unit

By LEON HADAR

Jerusalem Post Correspondent
NEW YORK. — Taking its cue from the United Jewish Appeal, the PLO is trying to promote a United Palestine Appeal (UPA).

According to columnist Jack Anderson, the organization is supported by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, and is engaged in a campaign to solicit funds from American firms that do business in the Arab world.

The most recent fund-raising effort, according to Anderson, was "an open letter to American companies that conduct business in the Middle East," reminding recipients of growing American business relations with the Arab world and noting that "of this \$53 billion worth of business for U.S. firms in the Middle East, less than .001 per cent returns to the region in any form of contributions to charities and humanitarian organizations."

UPA officials stress that their effort is humanitarian and not political.

The U.S. Internal Revenue Ser-

vice has recognized the UPA as a charitable organization, entitled to tax-exemption.

Anderson reports that the UPA's founder is Paul Ajlouny, publisher of the Jerusalem newspaper *Al Fajr* and a supporter of the PLO. Ajlouny, a resident of Long Island, was indicted in September 1978 on charges of attempting to smuggle stolen communications equipment apparently intended for the PLO in Beirut. Convicted on one of more than 100 counts filed against him, he was sentenced to two years jail, served several months, was released, now serves as an adviser to the PLO mission to the UN.

Ajlouny's background triggered IRS officers' suspicions, but after a long investigation, notes Anderson, they concluded that "even though it may raise some questions concerning the motives for establishing this organization (the UPA), it cannot operate to bar the tax exemption fought by the UPA."

Meanwhile Ajlouny has left the UPA and it operates from Washington.

Mubarak calls army Egypt's 'strong arm'

CAIRO (AP). — President Hosni Mubarak last week reminded senior ranking army officers that the army "is the strong arm that defends the political decisions of Egypt."

In an unannounced visit to the Third Army located along the Suez Canal, Mubarak answered questions on domestic and foreign issues, the government news agency

said. "He urged the army to remain strong and capable, to carry out any orders, to confront any foreign dangers that threaten Egypt's stability and security," the report said.

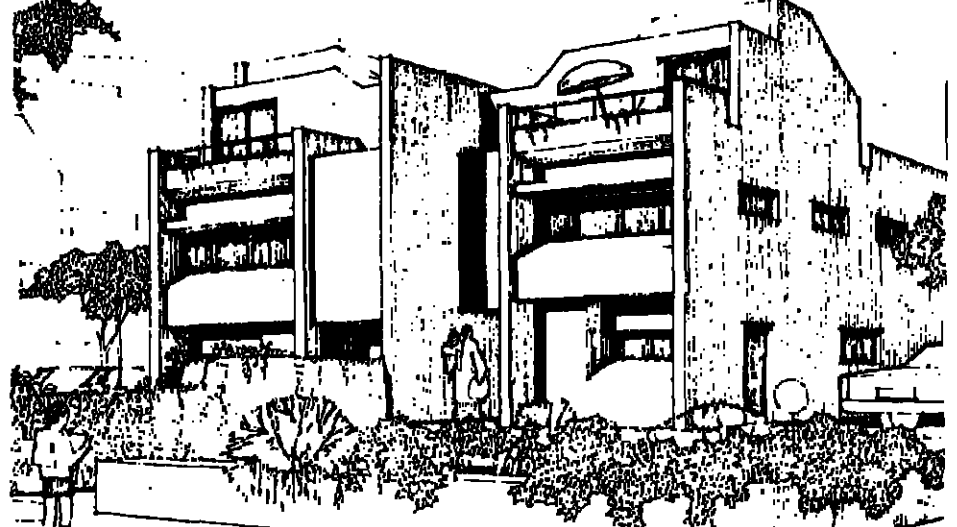
The meeting was attended by Defence Minister Lt. Gen. Abdel-Halim Abu Ghazala and Air Force chief-of-staff Gen. Mohamed Helmi.

A HOME IN ISRAEL

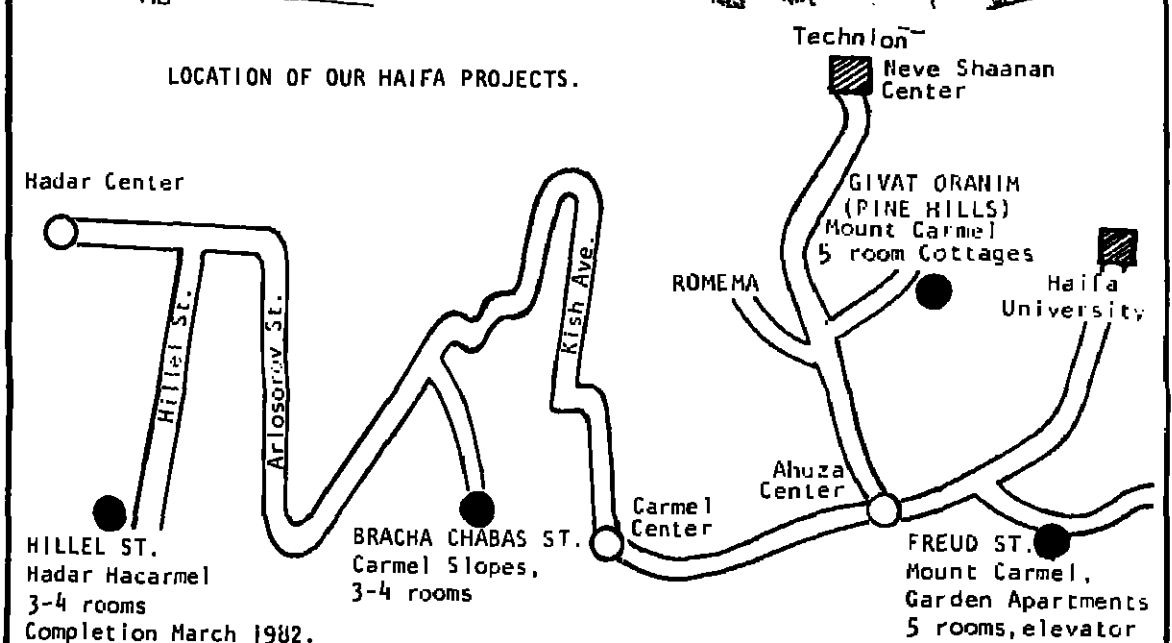
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The light behind the Toy Fund

THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY of the passing of inspired social worker Dr. Sophia Rogolsky was commemorated on April 9. For 30 years, she was the guiding light behind *The Jerusalem Post* Toy Fund, directing our goals to suit changing child welfare needs.

Dr. Rogolsky had a remarkable sense of vision. She saw beyond the immediate problems confronting her and set the wheels in motion to provide for the future.

Long before other welfare authorities anticipated the problems of the state would face in finding their way in a grown-up world, Dr. Rogolsky saw the need to provide these young people with aids to independence. She realized that a young man or woman without financial resources of any kind could not be expected to make his or her way in the world without getting into trouble. The only way to avert trouble was to make sure that those who needed help could get it.

Not all wards of the state are without funds. In some cases, they

are beneficiaries of estates held in trust until they come of age. But child welfare authorities estimate that within the next few years, an average of 300 destitute young adults will annually emerge from government institutions and foster care.

Initial funds to help these youngsters came from the sale of *The Jerusalem Post* Toy Fund tops, and the Toy Fund still plays an essential role in helping out with grants and/or covering the cost of essential items such as typewriters, sewing machines, knitting machines, hairdressing equipment and other tools of trade, as well as marriage grants.

Just before Dr. Rogolsky passed away, it was felt that she should be honoured by linking her name in perpetuity with the cause that was so dear to her heart. The Tsolia Fund was established without much fanfare, with an initial grant of IS100,000 from last year's Toy Fund and the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs has matched it with another IS100,000. From then on, there was only an occasional mention in *The Jerusalem Post*.

The Tsolia Fund has been kept on a low profile only to avoid confusion with *The Jerusalem Post* Toy

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Fund and the "Forsake Me Not" drive. Yet despite the lack of noise, money has been coming in from Israel and overseas sources, and we now have IS277,408 in hand.

Our most regular and faithful contributor is a Jerusalem woman who wishes to remain anonymous. She contributes to all three of our funds sending in small cheques at least once a week. Altogether, she has made 60 contributions — 20 to each fund — totalling IS3,270, equally divided into gifts of IS1,090 per fund.

The money raised to date has been put into long- and short-term fixed deposits in the bank, so that it can earn interest and be of use as needs arise.

We have appealed in writing to various trusts and endowment fund administrators to channel some of their monies towards the Tsolia Fund. However, all sorts of technicalities have kept the funds from reaching us. No one has given us a negative reply, which is good, but we're still waiting to get the positive replies. In the interim, the sale of Toy Fund tops has met the

Tsolia Fund requests.

The child and youth services department of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare will hold a Sophia Rogolsky memorial seminar on April 21. Subjects under discussion will include "Taking Children Out of their Home Environments" and "Institutional Treatment for Children Requiring Special Care."

Dr. Rogolsky cared a great deal about the independence of former state wards, and during the Festival of Freedom, one especially feels the importance of her work. In tribute to her long-standing efforts, we are now launching an all-out campaign for the Tsolia Fund. Now we would like to see more money from more readers. Some have contributed to all three of our funds, but many more have yet to contribute to the Tsolia Fund. Please send your donation today to the Tsolia Fund, *The Jerusalem Post*, P.O.B. 81, 910-00 Jerusalem.

We are still conducting our two other appeals, and it is never too late to give. Let our funds reap the reward of the *Affkomen*.

Our first list of Tsolia Fund contributors includes:

IS15,000 Israel Discount Bank, Jerusalem.
IS12,000 Anonymous, Shavei Zion.
IS200 Elie Sachs, Finland.

IS2,500 Moshe Tokayer, Pardes Hanna.
\$115 Meri Sachs, Helsinki, Finland.
DM 300 Mrs. M.W. Katz, Afula.
\$55 Bill Ikes, Berlin, Pa.

IS1430 Anonymous, Jerusalem — a total of 21 separate contributions.
IS1,000 Hanna Shapira, Patah Tikva, Natfali S-hut, Haifa.
\$50 Martha Kaplan, Bronx, N.Y.
DM100 Rabbi Peter and Pina Levinson, Dresden, Germany.

IS500 Mrs. L. Arkin, Givatayim, Lucite Rait, Jerusalem.
IS450 Katie Tornheim, Jerusalem.
\$20 George N. Alper, Long Beach, N.Y.

\$18 Beatrice Schwartz Zeldman, Jim and Tom Schneider, Chicago, Ill. David and Eleanor Fox, Pittsburgh, Pa. Shirley S. Feldman, Sterling, Ill.

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IS300 Nurit E. Raphael, Jerusalem.
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IS120 Rina Broit, Rehovot.
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HUMOUR

All in a night's work

By EPHRAIM KISHON

THE OTHER DAY our Renana decided to set herself up financially, and put up a notice at the neighbourhood bookstore as follows: "Reliable girl of good family interested in part-time babysitting. Please call 4-6." Nobody told 4-6, but one potential customer, a Mr. Winternitz, phoned to inquire after the age of the reliable girl of good family, and the semantic implications of the "part-time."

Out of loyalty I raised my daughter's age to 13½, but as for his second question I could only hazard a guess that the "part" stood for a couple of hours' babysitting rather than a round-the-clock service.

THEN I summoned my wife to an emergency session and we voted unanimously to suppress our little girl's initiative in the bud, commendable as it might be.

"I'm pleased Renana wants to work and not play the stock market like all the other kids in the neighbourhood," I told my wife, "but I'm dead against it. She'll never be able to cope."

Not that she's sickly or anything. She's fit as a flea is Renana, and not much stronger. She's a rather frail little girl, that is to say, and on top of that she likes to sleep at least 10 to 12 hours a night. In a word, approve as we might of our daughter's striving for economic independence, we didn't think she was cut out for professional babysitting.

"Don't worry," my wife assured me, "I'll talk her out of it in no time."

She was as good as her word, or nearly so. After a fairly brief tête-à-tête — one tête yelling its head off most of the time — my wife came back to report: "We've reached a compromise. Renana will babysit — not on her own, but with her best friend Nava."

"So where's the compromise?" "Dunno," said the little woman. "It sounded like a compromise."

OH WELL, I told myself, they can share the workload, half a sit is better than no sleep. Now there only remained a few technicalities to see to, like Nava's parents for one thing, whom I had a hard time persuading that a split sit would cause their frail daughter no harm either.

Next I made a clandestine phone call to Mr. Winternitz and offered to pay the full wages of Renana's co-sitter. I also found out that Mr. W. worked at night and that Mrs. W., the mother of the to-be-sat baby, had been taken by a bad toothache some eight weeks back and had moved in with her dentist, a divorce of two months standing. Opening night went off with hardly a hitch.

Renana put on her gymb suit and picked up our cat, Kitty, to take along, because she can't fall asleep without her. Me, I picked up Nava and drove the two of them to their workplace at the other end of the neighbourhood, promising faithfully to come for them at 5 a.m. which, as it turns out, is when Mr. W. was due home.

"Don't fuss," said my independent daughter trembling in every limb, "I'll be fine."

THE LITTLE WOMAN and I didn't sleep a wink all night, I got up at 4 a.m. and raced through the dark to the Winternitz residence, which was just as well, I rang and knocked

and rang and kicked the door, but no one came to open. In the end, I forced a kitchen window.

A quick nose count revealed that both halves of the babysitting team were present, though comatose. Nava was snoring softly in an armchair, the sat baby was screaming itself blue in the face on the living room carpet, whereas Renana lay curled up in the baby's playpen, Kitty in her arms and her thumb in her mouth. Her thumb, not Kitty's.

I took prompt action. The team was transferred bodily to the back of the car and Baby returned to its home-base in the pen — just in time, too, because at that moment Mr. W. arrived home. He appeared very pleased with the performance of the Babylonian night shift and paid on the spot. The youthful babysitters, it's true, looked rather wan and had dark rings under their eyes, but the money was unquestionably money.

"See, Daddy," Renana whispered, hoarse with fatigue but with a note of unutterable bliss in her voice, "I told you I'd be fine."

On the way home, the money in her pocket was already hard at work. She herself dropped into bed and slept till sundown.

A RECONSTRUCTION of the night's events revealed that everything had gone smoothly at first, and only after 10 minutes or so had the two sisters fallen asleep. Kitty had woken them up at midnight, by which time Baby had got as far as the porch and was about to crawl out for a night on the town. The fugitive was dragged back under protest, and no one is very clear about what happened next, except that no lives were lost in the skirmish.

For all that, we felt it was time to call it Regina.

Our good old babysitter, Regina Fleischacker, you may remember, lives way out in Holon. It needed a bit of coaxing to bring her back out of retirement, but in the end she agreed to join the team in the disguise of an old Winternitz aunt, on two conditions:

"A cab from Holon and back," Regina stipulated, "and double pay."

"Why double?" "Because I've got three babies to look after, don't I?"

She had a point there. I got in touch with a taxi company to arrange for Regina's nightly transportation and found out they charge special rates after 2 a.m., but I had no time to haggle with them because I had to rush off to a watchmen's agency to hire an escort for the girls on their dark miles to Babylon and back. They weren't cheap either, and I began to see what all that weeping by the rivers had been about.

The little woman argued that we might cut down expenses by taking the baby to our place for the night, but I pointed out that the psychological damage to Renana would be incalculable, and we didn't want to throw the babysitter out with the bathwater, did we?

It appears that the sweet taste of an undeclared income has gone to Renana's head: the last I heard she was planning to buy linked bonds, sell them at a staggering profit and buy heaps of bubblegum.

Translated by Miriam Arad
By arrangement with "Ma'ariv"

PEOPLE

DESPITE PREDICTIONS by Labour's Shimon Peres and Moshe Shaleh that the current government hasn't long to live, Prime Minister Menachem Begin's circle is confident of a miraculous revival after the April 26 Sinai withdrawal deadline.

The starring role in the Likud survival scenario is reserved for Mordechai Ben-Porat of Telem, who in recent weeks has twice come to the rescue of the foundering coalition. Never before, some people are saying, have so many office-holders owed so much to one man.

Ben-Porat's reward, it is said, will come in the form of a cabinet seat with all the trimmings, though it is still unclear whether the goodies will include a portfolio. Despite protestations of non-commitment by Porat and his Telem colleagues, Yigael Hurvitz and Zalman Shoval, my government sources say that the deal can already be regarded as signed and sealed. Delivery, as we've mentioned, will come at the month's end, with Ben-Porat leaving the Knesset for the cabinet and Shoval becoming a parliamentarian once more.

SPEAKING OF survival, we ought to repeat two interesting quotes made this week by two experts on the subject. Our longest-serving minister, Dr. Yosef Burg, said that he "takes care to approach the bar-

Miraculous revival

PUBLIC FACES / Mark Segal

ricades without ever mounting them." And the wily "Reb Simha" Ehrlich, asked how he managed to weather the storms of the Liberal Party, proclaimed: "It's simple. When I started to swim in the sea, I learned to duck whenever a big wave approached. All I have done is to apply my swimming lessons to politics."

Two well-placed government MKs this week gave very different forecasts of the timing for the next Knesset elections. Deputy coalition executive chairman and Herut Knesset faction head Romle Milo told a Holon audience to expect two campaigns this year — for the Knesset in August or September, and for the municipalities in November. But David Shifman, the deputy transport minister and chairman of the Liberal Party Central Committee, said in Rishon LeZion that the Likud preferred a joint November campaign "because it will save a lot of money." You pays your money and takes your choice.

JAMMING THE MEDIA. Begin

had another go at our broadcasters this week, following last week's fusillade against Israel TV with a salvo aimed at Kol Yisrael. He also had a caustic exchange with his one-time favourite Israel Broadcasting Authority director-general Yosef (Tommy) Lapid.



Yosef Lapid

After Lapid addressed our PM as "Mr. Begin," the latter reportedly replied in a scandalized tone: "Don't you dare address me as 'Mr. Begin.' You should call me 'Mr. Prime Minister.'" He proceeded to explain to all present that when he had joined the National Unity Government in 1967, he was most upset to observe the way ministers addressed PM

Levi Eshkol. "At the time, I insisted on calling him 'My Dear Prime Minister.' It is reprehensible and dishonourable to call a prime minister by his name."

STRIKING BACK. In a delayed reaction to the finance minister's attack on him during the Knesset debate on the Sinai settlers' compensation law, Dr. Amnon Goldenberg, the president of the Israel Bar Association, this week lashed out against Yoram Aridor for "waging a campaign of character assassination against me."

In the Liberal Party they claim that while Aridor is shooting at Goldenberg, he is really conducting a war by proxy against Ehrlich, whom he accuses of trying to undermine him.

LABOUR MK Chaim Herzog is peeved by the refusal of his faction executive to allow him to honour speaking commitments to the JIA in London and the UJA across the U.S. for which he would have been paired with NRP Deputy Foreign Minister Yehuda Ben-Meir. After party chairman Peres and Knesset faction head Shaleh preached at him about the need to stay home to vote, they caved in to the nagging of Shoshana Arbelli-Almosino to let her go on a State Department junket, after she arranged a pairing deal with Tami's Deputy Absorption Minister Benzion Rubin.



Mordechai Ben-Porat

WORLD WIZO President Raya Jaglom has returned home from Paris where she was honoured by an invitation to tea at the Elysee palace by the French President's wife, Mme. Danielle Mitterrand, whom she met on four occasions during the Mitterrands' recent visit to Israel.

ONE OF the reasons that ambassador to the U.S. Moshe Arens is home for consultations is said to be the envoy's continuing insistence on naming professional diplomats to replace party men at the embassy. The targets are Jerusalem Herut functionary Ya'acov Nechushtan, the embassy minister, and information counsellor Harry Hurwitz. Hurwitz, the former editor of a Herut weekly in South Africa, has the backing of Yehiel Kadishai. Begin's able *chef de cabinet*, but that may not be enough to save him from the wrath of Arens.

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A CHART FOR LIFE

A Technion scholar says that the Bible's description of the Exodus route is really an allegory, Ya'acov Friedler reports.

THIS PESSAH, as we again make ready to leave Sinai, one may well wonder why during the 15 years we held it, no enterprising operator organised "In the Footsteps of the Exodus" tours. It would have been as good a gimmick as any.

It would also have been a foolish waste of time. In the opinion of Bible scholar Yehuda Radday, professor emeritus of Jewish studies at the Technion, who established his reputation for Bible scholarship last year when he published the results of a four-year computer-backed study that showed that contrary to modern "Bible criticism," the Book of Genesis was indeed written by a single author.

Radday and his team of researchers are now engaged in a similar textual analysis of the second book of the Pentateuch, Exodus. He estimated that the study will take two years to complete. It is already broken down into metres of computer printouts.

In an interview with *The Jerusalem Post* Radday said that historians, geographers and even archaeologists who, Bible in hand, try to retrace the Exodus route "are missing the point."

"The Bible is not meant to be a tour-guide book but a guide of how to live. It's didactic. The author or the authors are not interested in informing us what happened at a certain time but rather to let us know what we may learn from what we read. The Bible gives no indication when or exactly how the Exodus was carried out but indicates how the author wants us to understand it."

RADDAY, WHO hastens to add that he sincerely believes that the Exodus actually took place, maintains that it had to take 40 years, as traditionally held, because "the Bible's use of figures is symbolic."

He notes: "Seven, 10, 12 and 40 and their multiples are recurring numbers in the Bible and they have a deeper meaning than mere figures. Just as colours have certain meaning for us today: black for mourning, green for hope, etc."

Seven, the number of planets known in antiquity, stands for divine intervention, and instructs us to look to Heaven, he holds.

Ten signifies the human being and the minimum to be demanded from him. Thus there are Ten commandments, 10 generations from Adam to Noah and from Noah to Abraham, 10 men to make up an *edah* or community.

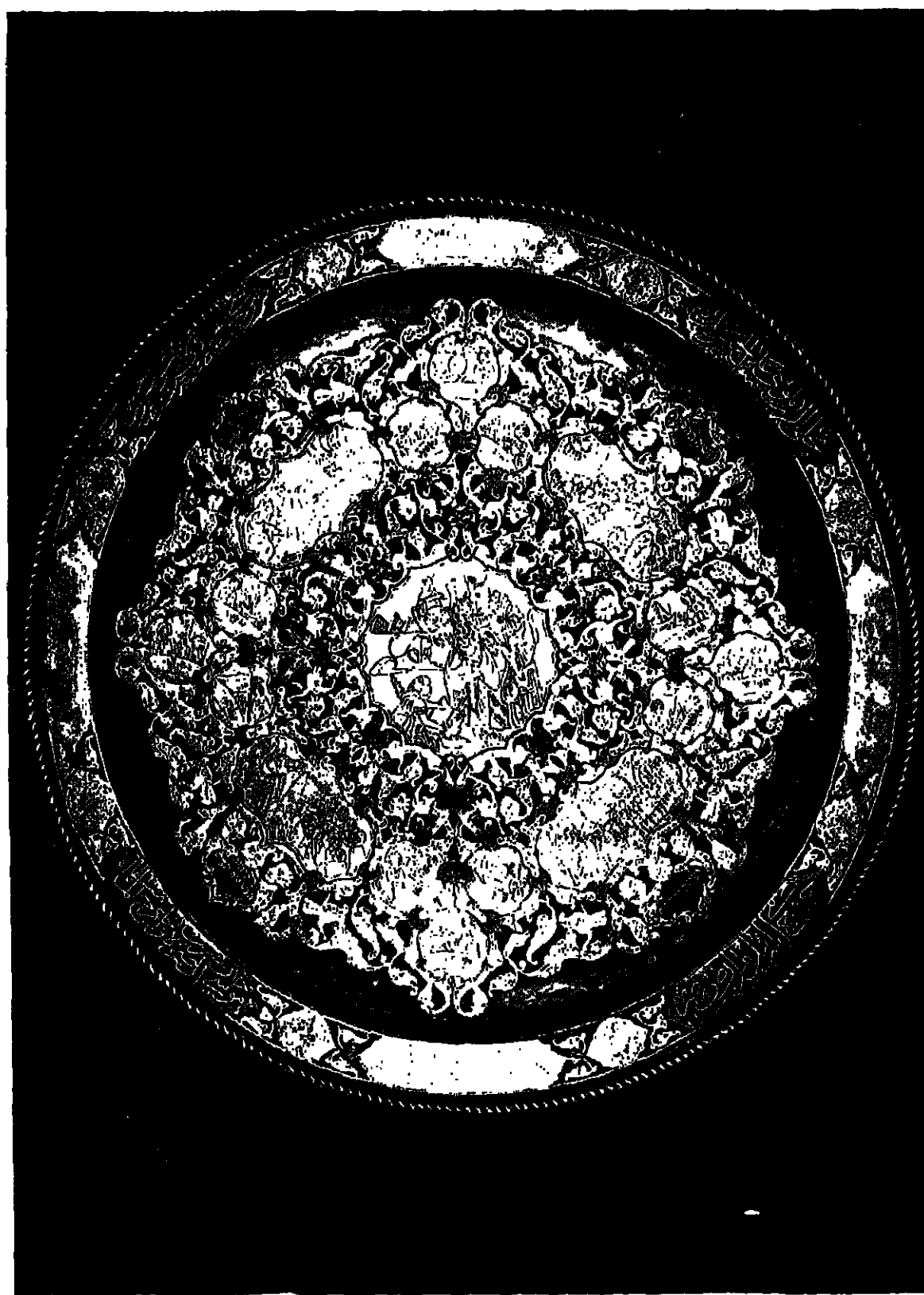
Twelve stands for perfection, like the perfect cycle of the year with its 12 months and the 12 tribes of Israel.

By this reasoning, Moses had to live 120 years, to represent the "perfect human" — 10, the human, multiplied by 12, perfection.

FORTY IN THE BIBLE means purity, through isolation and gradual growth.

The Flood took 40 days to sweep away evil and purify the world, Moses spent 40 days and nights on Mt. Sinai before he returned with the Ten Commandments, and the Children of Israel had to spend 40 years in the wilderness to be purified.

In Radday's view, it was therefore essential for the author of Exodus to



19th century Syrian Seder dish inscribed in Hebrew and Arabic with scenes from Pessah story and names of 12 tribes. (Below), a section from the "Bird's Head Haggada."

relate that the Children of Israel camped at 40 stations in the wilderness. However, he insists it would be a waste of time to try to find these 40 stations in Sinai today. In fact, the Bible itself tells us that of the 40 years in the wilderness the Children of Israel spent 38 at and around Kadesh Barnea. They reached the site on the borders of the Promised Land only 13 months after leaving Egypt, and it was from there that they despatched the 12 scouts to Canaan.

The 40 "stations" they travelled to (Numbers 33) are, in Radday's opinion, symbolic names, "and it's no use looking for them on the map. You may as well try to find the Somewhere-Over-the-Rainbow."

The 40 years the Israelites spent in the wilderness with God "were as a honeymoon," Radday says. In fact, in Jeremiah 2:2 we read of God saying to the People of Israel: "I

remember the unfailing devotion of your youth, the love of your bridal days, when you followed me in the wilderness."

The story of the Exodus, Radday maintains, is a message that tells us that the "God of the Bible is not some mathematician who makes the universe work, but One Who is interested in what happens in the world — and not only to the Israelites but also to such a superpower as Egypt."

Furthermore, the Bible shows God to be interested in human affairs and on the side of the underdog, and not concerned only with the relations between Man and God.

In his reading of Exodus, it

"represents a history that makes sense, and is not a mere chronicle of chance events. It shows history governed by a hidden plan, with God intervening through His angels, who are messengers. Anything can be His messenger: the blood and frogs and lice of the ten

plagues as well. You can even discern a sense of humour in the account of the plagues, such as when Pharaoh's magicians, not to be outdone by Moses and Aaron, produce more blood and frogs to chastise the Egyptians, just to show they can."

The plagues, he holds, have a pattern, occurring in ascending order of seriousness from mere nuisances, like the blood and frogs, to the death of cattle and finally of all Egyptian sons.

Radday declares: "This is not history, but a kneading of historical raw material into a message. The miracles — which is a poor translation for the Hebrew words used, 'nes' or 'peleh' — are God's messengers too."

Noting that the Bible tells of many "miracles" (miracles) but very few "plagues" (wonders), Radday contends that a "nes" in the Bible is an event that may occur in nature but has a very low statistical probability, whereas a "peleh" is something supernatural. To illustrate, he says that "a sustained rainfall in summer in this country would be a 'nes,' possible but most unlikely. But if the rain fell upwards from earth to cloud, that would be a 'peleh.'"

The ten plagues, then, except for the death of all Egyptian firstborn sons, can be defined as "nes," not because of the mere fact that they occurred but because they happened in an orderly pattern and in a limited time frame.

The death of the firstborn sons is more difficult to accommodate in this frame, because the Egyptian women of that time were notoriously promiscuous and it was hard to tell who was a genuine firstborn.

The parting of the Red Sea before the fleeing Children of Israel was also a "nes." This is so not because it happened — since we know now from Napoleon's biographer, Thiers, that his army, too, passed through the Red Sea on foot, if not with perfectly dry boots — but because it happened at just the right moment, which is a statistical marvel.

THE EXODUS, Radday says, has a great deal to teach us and deserves close study.

"But if you try to study it as a historical source of what happened where and when, you'll get to a dead end, because it is not meant to be history. It is told in poetic fashion, with exaggerations such as the Children of Israel passing through the Red Sea without getting their feet wet."

"From the Book of Exodus, we can not, and should not, try to understand which routes the Children of Israel travelled. But we can try to understand what the Bible wants us to conclude from the story, or if you like history, of the Exodus; the rejection of evil, the purpose of things, and perhaps, through the manna that sustained Israel in the desert, that Man shall not live by bread alone but that God will sustain him when he does God's command."

In sum, Radday feels, the story of the Exodus should not be used to try to trace the course of the ancient Israelites through the wilderness to the Promised Land, but rather to chart mankind's way to a more promising life.

The exodus from Egypt — then and now

THE PAINFUL, almost traumatic, episode of Israel's total withdrawal from Sinai should arouse a new interest in the ancient Exodus of the Children of Israel from Egypt.

The territory reached by Israeli troops in the southwest during the Yom Kippur War revived memories of the ancient settling in Egypt of the Patriarch Jacob and his family. Israel Defence Force troops were stationed in that same section of Egypt that our forefathers inhabited millennia ago, Goshen (Genesis 47:27). University professors came to survey the area in an effort to resolve the long-disputed question of exactly where our forefathers crossed the Red Sea.

Now, with Israel's withdrawal from all of the territory claimed by Egypt to be Egyptian — a very doubtful claim from the point of view of long-time history — speculation must be transferred from the realm of geography to that of geopolitics. Is this new Exodus from Egypt, with the glimpse it gives us of the possibility of once and for all establishing peace with our Arab neighbours, a positive move advantageous to Israel? Or does it represent a withdrawal from a strategic position that can only increase the risk to Israel's security?

BEFORE COMPARING further the Exodus of today with the Exodus of an ancient yesterday, let us review briefly the place that the latter occupies in our religious thought and ritual. The Torah commands us to remember the departure from Egypt every day of our lives (Deuteronomy 16:3). In order to comply with this commandment we recite twice daily the third chapter of the Shema, which concludes with the statement, "I am God, your god, Who took you out of the land of Egypt to be your god" (Numbers 15:41). Indeed, when God revealed Himself to the Children of Israel at Mount Sinai, He introduced Himself as the god Who took them out of Egypt (Exodus 20:2).

The elaborate ritual of the Pessah Seder is designed to remind us both of our bondage in Egypt and of our departure from there.

And every time we recite the Kiddush on Sabbath and festivals we say, "zecher l'Yizrat Mitzraim" — "a commemoration of the departure from Egypt."

We are bidden to learn many lessons from our ancient experience in Egypt. Primary among them is the knowledge that God took us out of Egypt for a dual purpose: to give us the Torah and to bring us to the land He promised to the Patriarchs. Only in the Promised Land Eretz Yisrael, the Land of Israel, can we fulfil all the mitzvot of the Torah and fulfill our destiny to be "a kingdom of priests and a holy nation." We must regard life in the Galut, in Exile, as an abnormal condition.

We remember Egypt and our departure from there in order to deepen our abhorrence of servitude. We remember Egypt and our suffering there in order to sharpen our sensitivity to suffering everywhere and enhance our sympathy for the stranger in our midst.

"Do not oppress the alien, for you know how it feels to be an alien; you were aliens yourselves in Egypt" (Exodus 23:9). "Love the alien, for you once lived as aliens in Egypt" (Deuteronomy 10:19).

Are these lessons applicable to



our situation today, having established our sovereign state and witnessing what many call "the beginning of the sprouting of our final Redemption?" An analysis of our contemporary Exodus, though it differs in many respects from its ancient counterpart, only confirms the present-day relevance of those lessons.

It is evident that today's departure from Egypt is not a flight, a running away, a release from bondage. The ancient Exodus was a hasty departure. "Thus shall you eat it (the paschal lamb): you shall have your belt fastened, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand, and you shall eat it *behipazon*, in urgent haste" (Exodus 12:11).

Not so the present Exodus. We are not running away from pursuing Egyptians; we are withdrawing only after they had come to make peace with us. And they did so, let it be clear, only because they finally saw that despite their superior numbers and the vast quantities of

Mendell Lewittes

sophisticated weapons in their hands they are unable to defeat the Israel Defence Forces and thus bring about the avowed aim of the Arab countries to destroy the Jewish State. This time, too, it was only after *makkot* — after suffering a thrashing — that they agreed to negotiate.

This absence of haste, this feeling that we are not fleeing from Egypt but securing the peace of our homeland, implies the need for deliberation, for honest soul-searching regarding the very purpose of our return to Zion. We must analyze more seriously and profoundly the fundamental *raison d'être* of the State of Israel. It is imperative that Israelis — and for that matter Jews everywhere — reflect upon our destiny and ponder upon our precarious situation.

We should inquire: What does God require of us in order to achieve true and lasting peace? Is it the kind of society that we have allowed to develop in Israel that is keeping us back from the goals that Zionism set out to attain — an exemplary society for all the nations to admire and strive to emulate? Are we abandoning Sinai and leaving behind the teachings of Sinai?

We are bidden to remember the departure from Egypt, but we are bidden to remember much more. "Remember the days of old; think of the generations long ago" is the injunction of the song of *Ha'azinu* (Deuteronomy 32), the song that sings the lessons of Jewish history, Moses' recapitulation of all that has taken place since our very beginning as a people.

It tells us how God found us in a wilderness; He cared for us; He made us ride on the high places and brought us to a land flowing with milk and honey. "But Yeashurun waxed fat and rebelled...and forsook God Who made him."

Who made him. We should inquire: What does

We forgot that our purpose in Israel is to build a righteous society, free of corruption and violence. We imitate the vulgarities of affluent societies; we ape Materialism; we neglect our spiritual heritage. "If they were wise, they would understand this; they would be mindful of the dire consequences," admonishes Moses.

Fortunately, the song of *Ha'azinu* ends on a comforting note, restoring our hopes and reviving our determination to live on and pursue the task of building our nation in freedom and in peace. God says: "I will punish My adversaries and take vengeance on My enemies... for He will avenge the blood of His servants... and make expiation of His people's land." Purifying the land of its corruptions and prejudices; raising the morality as well as the morale of its citizens; and extending a brotherly welcome to all *olim* regardless of their country of origin.

TO THE MANY questions we ask at the Seder we may add one more. Does the commandment to remember the Exodus from Egypt remain in full force in our times, or does our new situation compel us to dwell less on that ancient event and more on contemporary events?

This question is discussed by the Talmudic Sages. We find the following difference of opinion recorded in Tractate Berachot 12b: "Ben Zoma said to the Sages, Will the Exodus be recalled in the days of the Messiah? Does it not say (Jeremiah 23:7-8), 'Behold the days are coming, says God, when they shall no longer say, As God lives Who brought the Children of Israel out of the land of Egypt; but, As God lives Who brought the descendants of the Israelites back from the north country and from all the countries to which I dispersed them...'"

To this the Sages replied to him, "That does not mean that the Exodus will be entirely displaced [from our memories]; but that the redemption from bondage to the various kingdoms will take first place and the Exodus from Egypt will become secondary."

The time has come when the history of our own times must be seen in its proper perspective. We must not only recall the past but also recognize the significance of the present and the promise it holds for the future.

The withdrawal from Sinai, seen in the perspective of Jewish history, is an episode in a long chronicle that has always pointed to an exalted goal, the creation of a society that will be "a light unto the nations" through its translation of Prophetic ideals into the daily routine of our lives.

If in recent years we have lost sight of that goal, now is the occasion and opportunity to redirect our vision and continue our national development on the soil of the Holy Land with a new sense of dedication. The means to achieve this goal is through the proper education of our youth, making them aware of the divine purpose of the Jewish people's Redemption. Then will it come to pass that (Isaiah 54:13): "All your children shall be taught of God, and your children shall enjoy great prosperity."

Rabbi Dr. Mendell Lewittes has written articles and books on Jewish law and thought.

Out there, tooting his horn...

...was Bombay-born maestro Zubin Mehta, when the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra invited him to substitute for Eugene Ormandy in 1961. Twenty years later, Mehta was appointed the IPO's music director for life. ROBERTA ELLIOT reports.



AS GUSTAV MAHLER'S masterpiece, the vast Fifth Symphony, winds up to its final riveting five minutes, the atmosphere in the Mann Auditorium is as taut as the strings of the concertmaster's fiddle. On the podium, fairly dancing and weaving, is Zubin Mehta, the only one in the house at home with the intensity, musical and otherwise, that he is generating.

This evening he has done it not the impossible, well, at least the improbable. He has upstaged the consummate musicianly showmanship of James Galway, who earlier in the programme had seduced the audience with his tremendous talent and his winning ways. Now, only an hour later, the audience is hard put to remember the man with the golden flute.

Zubin Mehta, music director of the Israel Philharmonic. He is the man who became the first music director of an orchestra that for the first 40 years of its existence never had a permanent director. He is among the most famous non-political figures in the world with a formal long-term commitment to Israel. And, as everyone knows, he isn't even Jewish. A fact which underscored the recent controversy created when he spearheaded (with the full support of orchestra and management) a drive to perform Wagner here. In the end, the IPO responded by making him music director for life.

SEVERAL DAYS have elapsed since the Mahler performance. In the interim Mehta has driven to Sham e-Sheikh to say goodbye to the Sinai. Now, tanned and at ease, he sits in his hotel room, perfectly agreeable to be interviewed on one condition: no mention of the Wagner controversy.

"Enough has already been said about what happened. At the moment nothing is going on, we have no plans to play Wagner. Please, let's just let it lie," he says firmly. On the other hand, he is eager to talk about the love affair that has been going on between him and the IPO for over 20 years.

"In 1961 I was called to substitute for Eugene Ormandy. He got sick, and they'd heard of this Indian out there tooting his horn, so they called him," the Bombay-born maestro recalls with a smile. "It was successful. But even more, the most important break a young artist or conductor can get, is to be invited back. I was. Thank God, it hasn't stopped."

"The relationship developed over the next few years, but the real closeness came in 1966, when I substituted for Giulini, and took the orchestra on tour to Australia and New Zealand. Before that I had

come to Israel every other year — '63, '65 — to do my usual three-week series. But on that tour I really got to know the orchestra."

Several years later, in 1969, Mehta was asked to become the orchestra's first music director, but his contract as music director of the Los Angeles Philharmonic precluded him from assuming that title elsewhere.

"So we decided on the title of music adviser, but I was never just an *ezer* *geber*," Mehta chuckles, pleased with his knowledge of Yiddish. In 1977, when he left Los Angeles to become music director of the New York Philharmonic, his title in Israel was changed officially. "But as far as I'm concerned it was just a technicality, because that's what I had been doing all along."

When at the end of last year the orchestra named him music director for life, the normally articulate conductor was, as television audiences saw, left speechless. Even now, as he describes the surprise announcement at an orchestra party following his last autumn concert, the words come with difficulty.

"Lord, I was just overcome. They really didn't have to do that. It's the greatest honour they could have paid me, and it's even more meaningful, knowing it was decided by the musicians themselves." Then, after a moment's pause, he adds with a twinkle, "The way I see it, there are only two of us around for life — Duvalier in Haiti and myself!"

TITLE or no title, Mehta will continue to divide his time between New York and Israel. It is not uncommon for a major conductor to maintain posts in two orchestras. In that exclusive club of world-class orchestras to which the IPO belongs, qualified conductors are in short supply, so the orchestras share them. For years, Sir Georg Solti has been juggling between Vienna and Chicago; Seiji Ozawa conducts in Boston and Paris; Claudio Abbado leads orchestras in Milan and London.

Mehta's contractual commitment in New York is for 60 concerts each season, which leaves roughly 14 weeks of his yearly schedule for Israel. But unlike many of his colleagues, he does almost no guest conducting, in order to be able to concentrate on his two orchestras. And, not surprisingly, he bristles at the implication that the IPO gets a raw deal from him.

"I am involved in everything that happens musically to this orchestra — engaging players, rehearsing players, doing concerts with the players, and firing players — you know, the whole spectrum," he says.

"Although I've never discussed it with them, I suspect that the reason they finally decided to hire a music director in 1977 was first of all to be their 'heavy' — they needed someone to do the dirty work. But more than that, it's because an orchestra without a director eventually becomes an orchestra without a face. I give it direction and musical faces."

One way Mehta asserts himself is, of course, in programming, one of the more time-consuming aspects of his job. "Every time I come here I'm inundated with programme meetings. I approve all the programmes for guest conductors — you don't think that it takes more than ten minutes to approve my own programmes, do you?" he jokes. "The problem is that every guest conductor who comes here wants to conduct Mahler, and that's impossible."

Getting the guest artists and conductors Mehta wants to guide the orchestra when he's not here is a troublesome matter. "If you would take my list of ideal artists and conductors, and compare it with the published programme, you would see two very different lists," he says, hinting at the difficulties in bringing top-rate artists to Israel.

THE ISRAEL Philharmonic, unlike comparable orchestras elsewhere, has two major drawbacks: time and money. Most orchestras hiring guest artists ask for one, or at most two, weeks of the musicians' time. The IPO's standard series of 12 concerts lasts three weeks, a major chunk out of the time of heavily-booked artists.

Then there is always Israel's economic situation. Artists who would normally command handsome fees in the five-figure range (between \$10,000 and \$15,000 per concert) are simply out of the question for an orchestra whose operating budget this year is \$4.8m., roughly half that of the top-rank U.S. orchestras.

However, a tradition has developed between the IPO and some of the major Jewish artists which exists nowhere else in the world. Artists like Isaac Stern, Itzhak Perlman, Leonard Bernstein, Daniel Barenboim, Pinchas Zukerman and Henryk Szeryng, all come either for free, or for expenses only. But with a few of them Mehta has a special bone to pick.

"I must say that among the top Jewish artists, there are some who feel that they can come here whenever they want — it's their job security. And I don't like that. There should be a commitment on their part to come every season, like

Itzhak and Lennie. Lennie comes here every season — we respect him for that and will do anything for him. But others don't" — an obvious allusion to some of the Israelis who have achieved international fame.

"I wish you'd put this in print," he continues, warming to the subject. "Sometimes I have to talk to their parents. For instance, recently I had to speak with Pinky's mother. Pinky wasn't going to come to this year's Huberman centenary, when we are going to have a week of wall-to-wall violinists. So I told *mamishke* here, 'You know, in December '82, when all these people are here and your son isn't one of them, don't you come to me and ask, 'Why isn't Pinkie here?'"

BUT LOYALTY (and occasional disloyalty) to the IPO are not confined to the Kasher-Nostra (New York slang for all of those mentioned above, who form the core of the world's most talented musicians).

James Galway came for a minimum fee, and Mehta himself has a special arrangement with the management.

"If you think I make here what a music director makes... it's a joke, I tell you, I make very little more than a guest conductor. This orchestra is so poor. Take tours, for instance. Everybody thinks tours are great, but do you know that every time we go on tour, we lose \$200,000?"

No matter, tours are important for orchestras, Mehta explains, looking forward to the IPO's tour of North and South America in May.

"First of all, any orchestra needs exposure from the musical standpoint, or it becomes stale. It's the same with sports. Maccabi Tel Aviv can't play every day of their life here. They have to go all over the place."

"But touring is even more important for our orchestra than for others, because this country is losing friends fast. And it is really the cultural organizations, more than any Knesset committee that goes on *hasbara*, which win friends for this country. Take an anti-Semitic country like Argentina. When we were there two years ago, we had five performances with standing ovations. If we converted ten people in that auditorium, then I'm happy."

"This particular tour, coming when it does, is of crucial importance," he adds ominously. "God knows what will happen after April 26."

Mehta has just finalized cultural exchange arrangements with Egyptian officials. "The agreement, as it stands now, is that I myself will go

to Cairo to train their orchestra in June, and in November, on the anniversary of Sadat's Jerusalem visit, we will go to Egypt for a brief tour."

RETURNING to the subject of conductors, Mehta says, "You know, the favourite conductors of this orchestra haven't all been Jewish — Giulini, Barbirolli, Charles Munch. If someone comes to Israel, it's not because he's Jewish."

So why does he come? His reasons are plentiful, ranging one might say, from the ridiculous to the sublime. The IPO, unlike American orchestras, is a cooperative, meaning that the musicians themselves, and not a board of directors, are the decision-makers, determining policy.

"I've grown up with both systems, and, in the long run, I prefer the cooperative hands down. You know why? Because you can talk rationally with these musicians. And even if they don't agree with me, we're on such a friendly footing that instead of throwing the book at me, they simply tell me. These guys never even wished they had a union to deal with me, at least I don't think so," he says, alluding to the powerful American Federation of Musicians, a union to which every professional orchestra musician in the U.S. belongs.

"In North America it's getting to the point where the musicians sit twenty-four hours a day, trying to figure out how not to work. Do you know, I once did a Beethoven festival where the strings complained that the trombones were not working enough!"

He makes a passing reference to the orchestra's high quality, but it is clear that the reasons he keeps coming back is a quality of another sort.

"I come here three months a year, which is roughly a fourth of each year. And I do it with the greatest pleasure because what I'm giving the musicians, I feel I'm getting back a hundredfold from them spiritually. It's an instinctive, spontaneous music-making. It's always fresh. These musicians don't stink five minutes of routine. And that makes it worthwhile for me to spend one fourth of my life here."

Is there anything that could make the maestro give up his Israeli orchestra?

"Not unless they tell me quite honestly one day that they want to make a change. On the other hand, you never know what turns life will take. But at this moment, I can't foresee it."

Reflecting on his words, he adds, "I hope that didn't sound too arrogant or conceited — I didn't intend it to."

NATURE



This photograph of ibex roaming the Judean Desert has been released by the Society for the Protection of Nature as part of its campaign to protect the Eln Gedi-Arad-Masada triangle from development.

Lobbyists for nature

By MARSHA POMERANTZ/Jerusalem Post Reporter

ONE ROOM is a closet full of botanical skeletons: dried desert plants, each with its own brittle and beautiful symmetry. In another room, a rack of metal drawers contains rejections from the delicate bellies of birds of prey. Sorted in plastic bags are feathers, hair, even a lump's metal identification tags — whatever doesn't sit well in a hawk's maw when breakfast slides in.

These are just a few of the attractions at the Har Gilo Field School near Beit Jalla, one of 24 run by the Nature Protection Society in Israel and the territories. It was the site of the recent annual meeting of the society's council — 16 members, directors of the society's branches, and other lobbyists on behalf of flora and fauna and the people's right to hike among them.

Each meeting of the council has its cause. Last year's, at Hatzeva, devoted attention to the destruction of the Negev by the army, which is shifting there from Sinai. This year's cause was the defence of the last untouched arid region in Israel — a patch of the Judean Desert, 12-square kilometres in size, from Ein Gedi along the Dead Sea, to the proposed site of the Med-Dead Sea Canal.

The enemy in this case is overdevelopment, poorly planned, the defenders say. Specifically, a project initiated by the Tamar Regional Council at a spot about halfway down the Dead Sea coast. It calls for about 35 hotels which would take advantage of mineral springs in the area, and a town further inland for those servicing the hotels.

THE FIRST spokesman for the cause at the meeting was society chairman Azaryu Alon, recognizable for his knobby knees; he wore shorts as usual, though the calendar said barely spring and the sky said winter.

"In our own lifetime it was possible to walk for days in the desert without meeting anything that was non-desert," he said. "Now that's a dream."

He, and many of the other spokesmen, stressed that they are not against building in the desert. But they believe that development must be carefully planned to disturb the ecological balance as little as possible.

Eitan Gedailson, head of the society's nature preservation department, gave some details of the planned tourism development,

which focuses on an area called Nahal Hever, and includes some agricultural settlement which would, also endanger rare desert species.

He has the support of Technion planners and sundry environmentalists in his fight — and he has an alternative. Since hotel development is proceeding at Ein Bokek, at the southern end of the Dead Sea, part of the necessary infrastructure exists, and he suggests that the Nahal Hever plan be transferred south. That would also eliminate the need for a new town to house hotel workers; they could live in Arad. Presumably it would not satisfy the Ramat Regional Council, which wants the economic benefit.

Much of the day-long meeting was devoted to society business, occasionally laced with polemic apparently familiar to council members:

□ Nature Reserves: The society has long harboured a friendly enmity toward the Nature Reserves Authority, which basically shares its goals but is a government body. The NRA has started charging admission fees to reserves, which the society believes should be open free of charge. The society coordinates groups of young people who volunteer for "nature work," but has refused to supply manpower for taking cash at the entrance.

□ Money: Like everybody else, the society doesn't have enough of it. It is an independent non-profit organization, but gets about 40 per cent of its budget from the government, mainly from the Education Ministry for services it supplies — including field-school stays which are a regular part of the 10th-grade programme. Question: How to get more money from the government without compromising on independence?

For now, the society is expanding its tourism department, incoming and outgoing. It offers Israelis trips abroad — particularly to Egypt — and now has English-language tours of Israel which are advertised abroad by the Tourism Ministry.

□ Ideology: The control committee, which has been checking the hikes as well as the books, says there has been a "break in ideological contact between the guides and the children." Hikes seem to have become just an opportunity for a good time in the great outdoors. Guides don't explain the purposes of the society (preservation, education, research) as much as they used to, says the committee.



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The Bronze "Smiling god" with sword and shield found at Megiddo. At right is the ivory perfume bottle in the form of a woman found in the burned Fosse Temple of Lachish. The head and neck form the plug and are surmounted by a hand-shaped spoon containing a channel that allows the perfume to drain back into the bottle.



A Canaanite concubine figure depicted lying on a bed, from the collection of Moshe Dayan recently acquired by the Israel Museum (Radovan).



The beaten-gold nude goddess from the temple at Tel Lachish.

The semitic idolaters

Meir Ronnen

A NEW gallery devoted to finds connected with Canaanite cults and religion from the 14th-13th century B.C.E. was opened at the Israel Museum recently. A quite magnificent permanent display, it occupies a mezzanine floor overlooking other works of the Canaanite period in the Bronfman Archeological Museum.

The gallery has been arranged by Curator Miriam Tadmor and is displayed with exquisite taste; it features images of Canaanite deities in gold, bronze and pottery; ceremonial and luxury vessels of ivory, gold and faience; glass and carnelian jewellery; sculptures and reliefs of animals; and a fascinating scale model of the Fosse Temple of Lachish complete with miniature replicas of the fine vessels found in situ and which are displayed nearby or in the showcases. Even podiums of the temple's columns are on display. The whole arrangement is backed with a giant photograph of Tel Lachish.

Like the Israelites who were to shortly sweep them away, the Canaanites were an eastern Semitic people. They established themselves along the entire seaboard between Egypt and Turkey about five thousand years ago, replacing the earlier stone-age neolithic peoples who had first put down roots in the Yarmuk and Jordan valleys and in Sinai.

Canaanite trade and cultural links with Egypt of the New Kingdom were particularly strong but they also had links with the Aegean and Mesopotamia.

The unlucky Canaanites, whose culture reached its peak during the second half of the second millennium B.C.E., were once rolled over by the Hyksos, but they were finally caught in a historical pincer movement; as Joshua was flattening their cities and scattering their idols, they were being invaded by the sea peoples of the Aegean thus setting the stage for the famous clashes between the Israelites and the Philistines (literally, the "Invaders").

Those Canaanites who were not assimilated into one side or the other, fled into oblivion. Some of their gods and goddesses, like Astarte, were taken over by the Philistines, but they too were eventually swept away by the militant monotheism of the Israelites.

REFERENCES to the Canaanite deities are familiar to us from the Bible. But most of our knowledge of Canaanite religion is based chiefly on the mythological texts found at Ugarit in northern Syria, where, if I am not mistaken, some of the earliest evidence of the Hebrew alphabet was also found.

Most of the deities on show here are small. One presumes that any monumental images were totally destroyed by Joshua's men. But they did not loot the Fosse Temple, they levelled at Lachish; and it provided us with so many of the ritual and libation vessels on show here.

An extraordinary perfume flask was found on the central altar. Made from a hollowed elephant

tusk in the shape of a woman, it is surmounted by a spoon in the form of a hand which has a little channel that enabled the precious liquid to drop back into the flask. It is quite dark grey-blue, having been burned in the final destruction of the temple.

An even more dramatic find, one with Egyptian connotations, comes from another temple that stood nearby at the very summit of the mound of Lachish. It is a beaten sheet gold plaque depicting, in repoussé, a goddess standing on a horse instead of the usual lion. Naked except for a horned hat, her hair ends in the typical Hathor curls and in each hand she holds a lotus. Her eye, genitals and the horse's eye were once inlaid with some other material; the plaque itself was probably attached to something else, to judge by the perforated edges. Was she Anat, Astarte or Astarte?

Astarte was always a full-frontal nude and many examples of her abound here. Most of them were designed as "standing" figures but others, possibly depicting concubines, were depicted lying down on a bed. The latter were found in graves and the most beautiful one of all, with her head on a bolster-like pillow, comes from the collection of Moshe Dayan recently acquired by the Museum. Many of these figurines were cast and some are displayed with their moulds.

These figurines turn up in objects of everyday use too: knives, bottle stoppers, mirrors, though they also look as though they may have been made for ritual or royal use. One little head is cast in solid opaque glass, a very early example of glass-making.

OF NOTE are many beautiful cylinder seals, a device which originated in Mesopotamia. Rolled onto wet clay, the seals produce a "frieze," often with Hittite-like depictions of gods and animals. These were eventually replaced by the Egyptian scarab seals, handier for sealing rolls of papyrus. The Egyptian connection is obvious here. Canaanite sites at Beit Shean, Megiddo, Lachish, Tell el-Ajul, Beit Shemesh and elsewhere have yielded a trove of scarabs, some of them of Egypt's Thutmose III and Ramses II, III and IV (correspondence between the King of Lachish and his Egyptian overlords was found preserved in the el-Armarna archives). The scarabs are of course in the shape of the dung beetle, which the Egyptians believed pushed the ball of the sun across the sky.

On the other hand, Canaanite deities like Resheph were transplanted south and worshipped by the ever-electic Egyptians.

THIS WONDERFUL little gallery was made possible by an anonymous donor and is named for the late Alexander Braumüller, a staunch friend of Israel. Born in post-war Germany but disillusioned with both its past and present, Braumüller, a young collector, established a gallery in Paris. An athletic type, he mysteriously disappeared while swimming across the Seine at night.

THE MEDIA

NEWS BACKGROUND/Benny Morris

IDF source tells how—and why—books are banned

The IDF last week for the first time allowed a journalist to peruse the censor's list of books banned in the administered areas and explained in an exclusive interview the detailed reasons for each prohibition.

The list, shown to *The Jerusalem Post*, was updated through December 31, 1981, and is composed of 1,100 titles, including volumes of poetry, short stories, novels, history and political analysis. It substantially confirms previous IDF assertions about what is on the list and what is not.

Last month a number of Israeli and foreign publications, including *The New York Times*, charged that the IDF list consists of 2,000-4,000 volumes and includes such books as Alan Moorehead's *The White Nile* and *The Blue Nile*, George Orwell's *1984*, and works by Egyptian writers Tewfik al-Hakim and Naguib Mahfouz.

These titles do not appear on the computer print-out list, which serves the IDF censor's office as a "technical master list."

"The IDF censor approves about 99 per cent of the books for which import licences are requested by West Bank and Gaza book-dealers and libraries," said a senior IDF source.

Explaining the doubling of the number of banned books from about 600 in March 1981 to the present figure, the source pointed out that in 1977, some 4,624 titles were imported into Israel from Arab countries; 8,055 in 1980; and 21,342 in 1981. The jump between 1980 and 1981 occurred as a result of the opening of the Neot Sinai crossing point and the blossoming of book importation from Egypt.

"Unlike my bank account, the total number of books banned can only increase each year," said the source.

"But for every hundred books the IDF has banned, thousands more, I am sure, have been allowed through — which could equally well have been banned," said the source. "He was referring to the fact that due to the volume of book traffic through the censor's office, the censor is unable to thoroughly read each book and restricts himself to 'leafing through.' "Of course, if one story in a volume of 20 stories is found to contain anti-Semitic or inflammatory anti-Israeli material, then the whole volume is banned," explained the source.

BOOKS IN ARABIC

The list of 1,100 banned titles is composed exclusively of books in Arabic and almost exclusively of books by Arabs published in Arab

capitals. The list contains "one or two books" published in the Soviet Union (in Arabic) and about a dozen books translated from French, German or English into Arabic.

In one or two of these cases, the Arabic version is not an accurate translation but a variation — with added anti-Semitic or anti-Israeli material — of the original, such as the Arabic version of Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice*, which is on the list.

In other cases, as with Yigal Allon's *The Creation and Development of the Israeli Army* (*Insha'a wa'takween al-jaysh al-Israeli*), the preface added to the original volume is "hostile," states the censor's report on the book recommending the banning.

One passage the censor found objectionable in the preface of Allon's book reads: "Allon's book challenges Arab reason with its expression of innate arrogance and boundless aggression. This book is better than all the books we write on the aggressiveness of the Zionist movement and its designs of oppression, and its plans to force the Arabs to surrender...the story of Zionist imperialism in Palestine is no different from the story of the Zionist army..."

DARWISH'S POEMS

In January 1981, the censor banned a *Selection of Poems of Mohammed Darwish* the noted Palestinian poet who lives in Lebanon. The censor, explaining his reasons, quoted a passage from a poem called *Jaffa*, as follows: "I write for the children about Jaffa, and its ancient port, a place whose stones are precious, whose fruits shine like stars. There is buried my father and my younger brothers...There in Jaffa we had a house and a garden in which prevailed tranquility. And my father, an old farmer, loved the earth and the sun, the olives and the vineyards, his house and wife, and the trees laden with stars. And then came the strangers from a hidden place, from Eastern Europe, and from the darkness of jails, arrived like a pack of hungry wolves, and destroyed the trees and broke the branches and set fire to the granaries of stars."

Some half a dozen of Darwish's books of poetry and stories are on the banned list, as are the bulk of the works of Samih el-Kassim, another Palestinian poet. Also prominent on the list are the works of Ghassan Kanafeh, the poet and PFLP spokesman killed in a car-bomb explosion in Beirut in the early 1970s. "But some of Kanafeh's

books are allowed in," said the source.

Also on the list are Arabic editions of Hitler's *Mein Kampf* and *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*. "These books are anti-Semitic. If anyone wants to read them for research purposes, they can do so at the Hebrew University-National Library in Jerusalem," said the source. "But not at Bir Zeit or any other West Bank library," he added, where the ban, "of course," applies.

The sources said that the legal underpinning for the book banning is the 1945 Defence Regulations, passed by the British Mandatory authorities. These empower the censor to ban what he likes throughout Israel and the administered areas. "But we use these powers only selectively, only regarding the territories," explained the IDF source. This, he said, has led to anomalies. On one side of the Green Line one can purchase or borrow *Mein Kampf*, while on the other side one cannot.

Another of the translated works on the banned list is Maxime Rodinson's *Israel As An Imperialist Reality* (1981). The book is prohibited, according to the censor's report, because the back cover has the following blurb: "Here is a Jewish author who is angered by the exploitation of the Jewish religion for crooked political purposes, and for deception and Jewish propaganda... (Rodinson) refutes the alleged historical right (of the Jews) to Palestine, and he repudiates the (Jewish claims) scientifically and seriously... Then he describes the imperialist character of Zionism... and he concludes (the book) by justifying the Arab revolutionary movement and its struggle for the (Palestinian) return to the stolen lands..."

SADAT'S FRIEND

On the list are also a number of books by Yussuf al-Siba'i — a friend of the late Egyptian President Anwar Sadat — who was murdered in Cyprus by Arab terrorists soon after journeying to Israel with Sadat on his historic first visit in November 1977. One book by Siba'i that is banned is *Al-na Asrar Raj'a* (12 Men) (Cairo, 1971), a collection of 12 stories, one of which deals with an Egyptian soldier during the 1948 battle for Yad Mordechai. On page 192 Siba'i writes:

"The enemy began to wave white flags. But we have no trust in his honour. Because he who rips apart pregnant women's bellies and massacres children, is capable of dirty

tricks... as is a very cunning and cowardly person."

ANTI-SEMITIC PASSAGES

The censor's permit for each book's importation is good for one year only. "A year hence a new, different edition may be issued, with the same title. Also, it gives the censor a second chance to go over the book to see if it contains subversive material missed on the first time round," explained the source.

The "technical master list" used by the censor's office — against which the censor compares new import licence applications to see if books requested have not already been banned — was compiled in 1979-80 by the censor on the basis of collated orders issued since 1967 by the military government in the West Bank and Gaza.

The military government periodically issues orders banning books on the basis of IDF censor's reports on new titles submitted in bookseller's importation request lists. Apparently, the censor's office did not keep its own master copy, including all additions to the banned books list.

In 1976-77, a mistake by a military government official resulted in the publication of a list jumbling together the titles of banned books and books allowed for importation, throwing the whole book-banning process into disarray. This was corrected in 1979-80, with the completion of the technical master list by the censor's office on the basis of all the previous military government banning orders.

"The technical master list, we believe, is accurate and includes the titles of all the books banned by military government orders. It is theoretically possible that we have missed some books included in some orders, but I don't think this has happened," said the source.

The censor's report on Anis Mansour's *Al-Ha'et Wa'Danu'a* (The wall and the Fears) (Cairo, 1976), states that "on each of the book's three hundred pages there is a clear anti-Semitic passage." The censor quotes Mansour, now editor of *October* (p.14) "The Jews cheat and deceive the whole world... perhaps we have forgotten that the Jews are haters of those who adhere to other faiths... This hatred is expressed in their books, which are called the Talmud. The Talmud shows how to hate non-Jews, indeed makes it obligatory."

The IDF senior source said that "the banning of books which are pro-PLO, anti-Semitic and seditious prevents the creation of hatred in the territories. Ultimately, the censorship protects Israel and public order."

Cairo radio staffers visit kibbutz

KIRYAT SHMONA. — Three staff members of Cairo Radio's Hebrew service visited Kibbutz Lahavot Habashan last week as guests of MK Dov Zakai (Mapam), who is a member of the Hula Valley Kibbutz.

The three visitors — Ahmed el-Hamali, director of the Hebrew service; Sha'ina Rajib, a Hebrew-language newsreader; and Adel Mustafa, musical programming director for the service — did interviews for a programme to be broadcast on April 26, after the Sinai withdrawal.

'Mankind 2000' Concern over television's ill effects

Jerusalem Post Reporter

HAIFA. — The potential ill-effects of television as a mass medium worried experts discussing the role of the media last week at the "Mankind 2000" symposium held at Haifa University here.

Psychological stress experts Shlomo Breznitz of Haifa and Lenart Levi of Stockholm expressed concern about the growing gap between our own lives and life on the television screen.

"As he grows up, a modern child will watch countless love melodramas and see thousands of people getting murdered on television. After such a preview one is bound to find one's own life quite a dreary affair," said Breznitz.

Levi said that "the modern girl has visions of a strong handsome man who carries her through life. What she gets is an industrial worker who smells of sweat and beer. He is a nice guy, but the girl is disappointed. The media serve to reinforce our exaggerated claims on life, and these, in turn, breed unhappiness."

Author Elie Wiesel said that the influence of television had grown "to the extent that the news anchormen of the major television networks in the U.S. wield more power, taken together, than the president. In a crisis their behaviour could decide whether we go to war or not."

Pete Nichols of Britain said that the first time TV brings war into our living rooms we are shocked, but gradually addiction sets in and stronger and stronger doses of violence, sex and scandal will be required to excite us or provoke our sympathies.

BBC correspondent Michael Elkins predicted a bleak future for serious journalism. As television takes over from the press, time-consuming comments and news analyses will be squeezed out and replaced by snappy, shallow news reports.

Begin lashes radio

Prime Minister Menachem Begin last week denied saying that Kol Yisrael was anti-Zionist and anti-state. The prime minister made this denial at a meeting with the head of radio, Gideon Lev-Ari, Kol Yisrael reported.

Earlier, the radio's management committee had unanimously rejected Begin's reported criticisms, which he was said to have made at the weekly cabinet meeting.

According to the earlier reports, Begin was said to have launched a sharp attack on the radio, calling it "anti-Zionist and anti-state." The prime minister was also said to have demanded that the Education Ministry, which is responsible for the Broadcasting Authority Law, appoint an official to monitor the radio 20 hours a day.

Meanwhile, a shortened news bulletin was broadcast at the end of last week's TV programmes, instead of *Almost Midnight*, as TV journalists agreed to negotiate all disputes with the management of the Broadcasting Authority.

The agreement to negotiate was worked out by the authority management and the Jerusalem Journalists Association.

E. Jerusalem journalists protest censorship

Journalists from three East Jerusalem dailies last week held a sit-in demonstration at Red Cross headquarters in Jerusalem's Sheikh Jarrah quarter to protest against censorship and what they claim is a ban on their papers' distribution in the administered territories.

Joining the 25 journalists were 15 mothers of security prisoners, who claimed their sons are being abused by Jewish inmates in Ramle Prison, and that they are not allowed to visit them.

Some of the demonstrators carried placards and walked along the street. Neighbourly border policemen did not interfere and the two-hour protest dispersed quietly at noon.

The East Jerusalem dailies *Al-Fajr* and *A-Sha'ab* were not officially banned in the territories, but their distribution licences expired on March 31 and were not renewed by the editors. They refused to do so in protest against alleged new conditions that would legitimize military

search and seizure measures if they are suspected of incitement.

Civil administration spokesman Shimon Mendes last week reiterated there are no new conditions to the licences adding that the new licences were ready by March 25 but the editors of *Al-Fajr* and *A-Sha'ab* refused to pick them up. However, the editor of *Al-Quds*, another East Jerusalem daily, picked up its licence and the paper is distributed throughout the territories.



The newest addition to Israel's merchant fleet, the Zim Iberia, as she entered her home port of Haifa for the first time last month. With a crew of 29, the ship can carry 1,000 containers and will join two sister Zim container ships on the Far East route. (Israel Sun)

Farmers set strike over aid funds

By YITZHAK OKED
Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. — The Histadrut Labour Federation's Agricultural Centre and its affiliates are planning a strike for May 2, which will prevent all agricultural produce from reaching the market.

The action is being taken because of farmers' growing discontent with what they say is the government's failure to take action to solve the crisis in the country's farming.

Chairman of the centre's economic committee, Yehuda Sa'adi, told *The Jerusalem Post* last week that the farmers were "sick and tired" of promises, which had not been fulfilled.

An emergency session of the Moshav Movement of cooperative farming settlements convention has already approved stepping-up protest activities; and the plenum of the Agricultural Centre, which

meets April 19, is expected to ratify the decision to go on strike, which was put off until after Independence Day.

Responding to this high-ranking official of the Agriculture Ministry told reporters last week that there was a plan to meet the crisis in farming. He said the Treasury and the Knesset Finance Committee had already approved the funds for the programme.

Specifically, the official said that a plan for providing working capital to farmers producing for the local market was almost ready; but he would not give details.

The official admitted that it was difficult for farmers to make money at a time of 130 per cent annual inflation, but he maintained there was room for improvement in methods and efficiency.

The ministry could not possibly assist all the moshavim, he noted, hence it had been decided to help

out the 30 worst cases. IS300 million had already been allocated and it would be given to farmers, "who are prepared to work hard and obey our rules."

The Agricultural Centre's Sa'adi said that the ministry was behaving like a "social welfare" ministry. His people were not looking for handouts, but for a "strong agricultural policy."

He rejected the idea of assisting only the 30 worst-case moshavim. All farmers in trouble had to be helped, he insisted, otherwise it would cost the government more in the long run.

An Agriculture Ministry official pointed out that one third of Israel's farmers were making money from exports, even now. The remaining two-thirds would have to be taught to be equally efficient. He admitted that until this could be achieved, there would be a need for government assistance.

The Bank Leumi group last week announced its financial results for 1981. They show total consolidated assets of IS317 billion (\$20.3b.), an increase of 127 per cent over 1980 (10.0 per cent in U.S. dollars).

Leumi assets IS317b., profits are IS1.2b.

By JOSEPH MORGENSTERN
Post Finance Reporter

TEL AVIV. — The Bank Leumi group last week announced its financial results for 1981. They show total consolidated assets of IS317 billion (\$20.3b.), an increase of 127 per cent over 1980 (10.0 per cent in U.S. dollars).

Net profits for the Leumi group reached IS1.2b. (\$76.3m.), reflecting a gain of 127 per cent (9.7 per cent in U.S. dollars).

The real gain in profits, taking into account the annual rise in the cost-of-living index, shows an increase of 12.6 per cent. The net profit per share, on a fully diluted basis, grew by 104.8 per cent; from IS63 per cent in 1980 to IS129 per cent in 1981. Deposits by the public stood at IS175b. reflecting a 135 per cent growth. In dollar terms, the deposits advanced by 13.9 per cent, to \$11.2b.

Loans to the public totalled IS85 billion, an advance of 113 per cent and to dollars 5.5 billion for a rise of 2.9 per cent.

The total capital assets of the group, including notes reached IS11.1b. (\$711m.), compared with IS46b. (\$611m.) in 1980.

In view of the favourable results, the board of directors has decided to recommend before the annual general meeting of shareholders the distribution of 100 per cent in bonus shares and a cash dividend of 16 per cent.

The Bank Leumi group's consolidated balance sheet reflects a foreign currency component of some 55 per cent, excluding German restitution payments and local resident's foreign currency ac-

Financial highlights

Consolidated balance sheet	(IS b.)	Change from 1980 (per cent)
Total balance sheet	317.3	127.5
Demand deposits	18.6	90.7
Time and savings deposits	156.6	142.2
Capital funds and notes	11.1	140.4
Consolidated profit and loss accounts (IS billion)		
Pre-tax operating profit	3.0	104.2
Net profit	1.2	126.8
Cash dividend and capitalization shares	1981	1980
Sum of dividend (IS m.)	141.6	57.7
Rate of dividend (per cent)	16.0	16.0
Capitalization shares (per cent)	100.0	100.0

Egyptians seek parity in textile deals

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Egyptian textile manufacturers are prepared to purchase from Israel thread and acrylic fibres, if Israel buys from them goods of equivalent value.

This position was expressed recently to a delegation to Egypt made up of the managers of the biggest textile factories here.

Members of the delegation mentioned that the Egyptian manufacturers have been implementing similar agreements with several countries.

Israel recently established a permanent stand at the Cairo trade fair, one of the few permanent stands at the fair.

Israel's ambassador to Egypt, Moshe Sasson, opening the stand, said it symbolised Israel's confidence that the peace process would continue. Sasson noted that Israel only exported \$12 m. worth of goods to Egypt last year and imported a mere \$1 m. These figures were disappointing, said the ambassador, adding he hoped for a serious improvement in 1982.

IS106.4 billion collected in taxes last year

Total tax revenue collected by the government during the past fiscal year reached IS106.4 billion, a 9 per cent increase in real terms, over the previous year.

At the beginning of the year, Finance Ministry estimates had been IS107.1b., which was later revised to IS110b.

VAT revenue in real terms increased by 16 per cent and that of income tax by 8 per cent. On the

other hand, the yield from purchase taxes showed a real decrease.

Higher imports of consumer products, such as cars and video sets, brought a 27 per cent increase in import tax revenues.

Finance Ministry officials emphasise that these figures are provisional and may be revised upwards as a result of additional tax collection reports.



Ernst I. Japhet

counts.

Ernst I. Japhet, Leumi's chief executive and board chairman, in reply to a question by *The Jerusalem Post*, gave details about the important factor of non-resident funds held on deposit with the bank. "There are some \$4.5b. worth of deposits maintained in Israeli banks by non-residents. Of this amount some 50 per cent is held on deposit with members of the Bank Leumi group," he stated.

Japhet further explained that the Bank Leumi group, over the past 15 months has reduced its share of diamond industry financing from approximately \$480m. to the current level of about \$240m. "We have been fortunate in not having to absorb any serious losses as a result of diamond financing," he said.

In 1981 investments in the bank's shares had a real yield of approximately 39 per cent and a dollar yield of about 35 per cent.

Bank Leumi last year raised capital on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange in the sum total of IS1.1b.

Total assets of provident funds stood at IS31.3b., while mutual funds managed by the Bank Leumi group totalled IS10.1b.

TOURISM

Christian tour promoter on his 100th visit here Getting U.S. ministers to bring their flocks

By HAIM SHAPIRO
Jerusalem Post Reporter

"Israel is the land of milk and money," according to John Noseworthy, a U.S. promoter of Christian travel to Israel, who recently toured the country for the 100th time.

The promoter led a group of 52 ministers who each paid \$495, including air fare, for a nine-day tour. "Everybody made sacrifices for this tour," he says, hotels, airlines, and he himself, but he expects the effort to pay off within a few months, when the ministers lead their own congregants in tours of the Holy Land.

"Each of those ministers is sitting there imagining himself at the front of the bus, talking to his flock," he said. In fact, for ministers who do bring a group of at least 15, the cost of this tour will be returned, he said.

Noseworthy first visited Israel in 1964 and was due to bring his first group on June 6, 1967. The visit was postponed by the Six Day War for only four weeks and when it did come, it was one of the first tourist buses to go to Gaza. The son of a minister, Noseworthy is a layman who specializes in bringing ministers with their congregations. Most are Pentecostal Christians.



John Noseworthy

but not all, he stressed.

He is convinced that tours for Americans should include deluxe accommodations. The visitors can afford the extra cost, he feels, although he admits that he works hard shaving off prices on such factors as hotel rooms.

He also says that in his opinion the government order which stopped tours coming and going through Jordan has not affected the number of Christian pilgrims coming from the U.S. The party hurt by the rul-

ing is Alia, the Jordanian airline, which has had to cut down the number of its flights to the U.S. Now groups only go to Jordan if they want to visit Petra.

Although he specializes in tours to Israel, Noseworthy offers visits to Israel and another country, mainly for ministers who have been to Israel already and want to see another place as well. This year, of course, the main traffic is to Israel and Egypt.

What makes Noseworthy unique is his habit of accompanying every group. "I want to make sure that they are treated right," he says. He has six Jewish guides on whom he depends to guide his groups. The fact that the guides are Jewish only adds a greater dimension to the information the visitors get, he says.

Asked what the country can do to promote pilgrimage tourism, he suggests that better washroom facilities, especially at some of the more remote religious sites, would be a great help. Many of those who come are elderly people, he points out.

One great improvement has been the baptismal site on the Jordan near Lake Kinneret. Until it was built, he recalls, the groups had to change into dry clothes on the buses with the window blinds down.

Arkia becomes Israel's third charter operator

By JOSHUA BRILLIANT
Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. — Arkia Israel Inland Airlines last week operated its first charter flight to Paris, emerging from its basic role as a domestic carrier to that of a medium-range international airline.

Arkia is the third Israeli charter operator, after El Al's subsidiary Sun D'Or and Maof.

Until now the airline's propeller-driven aircraft flew only inside the country or to nearby destinations, such as the Greek islands and Egypt. Last week Arkia began operating its twin-engine Boeing 737, which according to company president Arik Achmon, enables it to go to destinations seven to ten flight hours away.

Arkia decided to branch out into

international charter flights partly because Israel's map has shrunk. The Defence Ministry had been an important customer, as soldiers had to be flown long distances, but the arrangement was discontinued. The return to Egypt of Santa Katerina and Ophira (Sharm e-Sheik) also harmed the company because it must now share passengers going there with Egypt's planned Air Sinai line.

The new development was called for also because Arkia has the infrastructure to operate up to three jets for international flights, according to Achmon.

Arkia plans to begin its charter services by operating four flights a week to Europe. The number will climb to 11 in mid-June with almost daily flights to distant European airports, supplemented by short

journeys to nearby vacation spots in the Mediterranean.

About 70 per cent of the passengers are expected to be foreigners, mainly from England, France and Germany. Israelis are expected to go to the Greek islands of Rhodes, Corfu and Kos, and to Palma de Majorca, Achmon said. The flights will be operated by the Boeing 737, which arrived here last week. The 130-seat aircraft had been bought from Air Alaska a year ago, but was leased to Air Berlin while Arkia's crews were being trained in the U.S. and Germany.

Each of the new aircraft costs \$13 million, but with spare parts the price rises to \$15m., Achmon said. He maintained that the two new planes are capable of taking off from Eilat or Atarot with a full load and fly non-stop to London.

Chartered airliner leaves Tel Aviv empty

By JOSHUA BRILLIANT
Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. — A Boeing 707 that El Al had chartered took off from Ben-Gurion airport without passengers recently because El Al personnel demanded that they fly it and not the plane's regular crew.

A management source told *The Jerusalem Post* the company had chartered the plane from British Midland for some six flights to meet an increased demand during the spring. No company leases planes without crews for such short periods, the source continued, but nobody told the staff committee before the plane landed here.

The workers were up in arms when they saw the aircraft and Ben-Gurion. "We're willing to work more," a spokesman for the flight engineers staff committee told *The Jerusalem Post*. "Discharged air force pilots are unemployed. Why should (management) bring in foreign crews?" he asked.

The workers threatened to strike if the deal with British Midland goes through.

Management gave in and the passengers were transferred to other planes. Asked why El Al had to charter the plane in the first place if it had enough seats on its other flights, the management sources said, "That's a good question."

Outgoing travel is booming, Kopel says

With competition on the upsurge to sell tickets to Israelis travelling abroad, travel agencies are continuing to produce new gimmicks for their clients.

The latest is an offer by Kopel Travel for a combined fly-drive package. In conjunction with Hertz

Car Rentals, the company offers clients a car for \$10 a day per couple, with unlimited kilometrage. The car may be picked up anywhere in Europe and deposited anywhere else, at no extra cost.

Rosenberg noted that despite the competition, business is booming.

Weekly sailings to Europe launched

Jerusalem Post Reporter

HAIFA. — The Sol Lines of Cyprus last week initiated a regular weekly passenger service between Haifa and Europe with the passenger and car ferry Sol Express. The ship will sail from Haifa all year. Until June it will call at Limassol and Piraeus and then will also call at Brindisi.

The company is represented by Malchi shipping agents. The ship has room for 200 passengers in cabins and 800 in pullman-type armchairs inside and on deck.

Fares will range from \$25 one way to Cyprus to \$500 to Brindisi in the best cabins. The tickets, valid for a year, do not include food, which passengers may bring with them or purchase at the ship's cafeteria. Prepared kosher meals will be supplied.

MAGOR — The road service company now has an agreement with a French company to supply Israeli subscribers towing and other services while travelling in Egypt.

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PLO woos U.S. Christians

By LEON HADAR

Post New York Correspondent

THE ARAB-ISRAEL conflict has overflowed into the American Christian community as a concerted attempt by the PLO to enlist the support of clergymen has resulted in a nationwide debate. On one side are Liberal Protestant churchmen, tending to adopt a more pro-Arab position; on the other, conservative fundamentalist leaders are emerging as the element most supportive of Israel.

In what is swiftly becoming a PLO test case, the enticement of a group of Seattle clergymen to Lebanon, all expenses paid, has sparked a bitter controversy between the two camps.

The controversy has also created tensions between the Jewish community and the liberal Protestants in Seattle, and weakened the already deteriorating relations between the two groups. But at the same time it has improved the ties with the fundamentalist church groups, whose support for Israel has grown in recent years.

The "Seattle controversy" should not be seen as an isolated phenomenon but as part of the complicated relationship that has been developing between Israel and the American Jewish community and the two major American church groups.

On the left are the liberal Protestant churches, which constitute the backbone of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S. (NCC), a long-time ally of the American Jewish community on most domestic issues but a "Third Worldist" group when it comes to foreign policy matters.

The liberal Protestant churches, which represent about 32 million constituents and include among others Presbyterians, Episcopalians and United Methodists, were the first to include studies on anti-Semitism in their religious textbooks during the '40s and '50s. They advocated separation of Church and State and encouraged political justice for minority groups — positions shared by most Jews in America. During the '60s Jews and liberal Protestants found themselves allied in the civil rights struggle in the South and in the anti-Vietnam War movement.

However, even in that period American Jews noticed disturbing signs when it came to the attitude towards the Jewish state. Thus, on the eve of the 1967 war, the NCC refused to issue a statement in support of Israel.

In the late '60s, a "Third Worldist" or "liberationist" ideology began to gain strength among the leadership of some of the liberal Protestant churches. "Liberationist" activists in the American churches and in the World Council of Churches (the Geneva-based international federation of liberal Protestant churches) began to champion the cause of Third World countries and "national liberation movements." Not surprisingly, they perceived Israel as a "racist" and "imperialist" state.

Another important development was the influence in the NCC of the Arab churches, such as the Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese of North America and the Syrian Church of Antioch, both controlled by pro-Arabian Arab clergymen.



This reflected the traditional involvement of liberal Protestant churches in philanthropy and missionary activity in the Arab world, which led to the emergence of a large professional group sympathetic to Arab views and occupying central positions in the Middle Eastern departments of several denominations.

The general pro-Arab tilt of the NCC became clear in 1980 when, following a fact-finding trip to the Middle East, the Protestant leaders passed a resolution calling for negotiations between Israel and the PLO.

At the same time, the American Jewish leadership was confronted with a new fundamentalist Christian power propagating a politically right-wing evangelism, which supports Israel unconditionally but whose views on domestic issues are perceived by many Jews as a major threat to their future. Reform Rabbi Alexander Schindler went as far as asserting that "they seek to Christianize America and make this a republic ruled by Christ. They are scarcely democratic and threaten to destroy the freedoms which Jews enjoyed in the last decades with their test of political religious purity."

IN THE MID-'60s, the Evangelical Church, which today has a membership of more than 50 million was able to open channels to Israel and through it to the American Jewish community. Among the main pro-Israel figures was Rev. Dr. Billy Graham, who had open access to the White House during the Johnson and Nixon administrations. He acted as a pro-Israel lobbyist in many instances and also became a good friend of Golda Meir, who during the Yom Kippur War asked him to use his influence to get the administration to send arms to Israel.

Today, one of the most pro-Israel groups in the Christian right coalition is the Moral Majority, which claims two million members, headed by the Rev. Dr. Jerry Falwell, a staunch supporter of Israel and a close friend of Menachem Begin's. From his church in Lynchburg, Virginia, Falwell advances on the Zionist cause on his weekly programme, "The Old Times Gospel Hour," which is carried by 700 radio and television stations in the U.S. and around the world.

In an interview with the *Jewish Press*, Falwell explained that "God

deals with all nations in relation to how those nations deal with Israel," and that "there is no question, but that Judea and Samaria should be part of Israel." America "should be without hesitation giving total financial and military support for Israel," he stressed.

THE SEATTLE Controversy erupted two months ago, when Eric Nalder, a reporter for the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* revealed that the PLO, through two front organizations — the Beirut-based "Palestine Research Centre" and "Institute for Palestinian Studies" — was sponsoring a week-long tour of Lebanon for six Seattle clergymen.

The trip was arranged by two American citizens born in the Middle East: Fawzi Khoury, a Lebanese Christian who runs the Middle-Eastern library at the University of Washington; and Farhat Ziadah, a Palestinian from the West Bank who is now chairman of the same university's department of Near Eastern languages and literature.

Although both claimed to know nothing about a "PLO connection," they admitted that the airline tickets for the group were provided by the two PLO-controlled "research" institutions. The members of the liberal Protestant group, confirmed that they knew the trip was PLO-sponsored, but had no personal or political objections to this.

"I hope to gain a better understanding of the conflict in that part of the world as seen from all points of view," said one of them. Rev. Rodney Romney, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Seattle, in a column he wrote for the church's journal, argued that, "it is understandable that the Palestinians would despise Zionism, [which] evicted them from their homeland and 'usurped their rights.'"

Another member of the group, Rev. William Cate, head of the Church Council of Greater Seattle, said that "just because we are going to listen to them doesn't mean we are going to endorse the PLO." He added that the American Jewish committee (AJC) picked up part of the tab for the trip he took to the Middle East five years ago.

The Seattle-based *Journal American* stated in an editorial that if American Jewish organizations were going to "offer free trips to opinion makers, then they have little basis for complaint when the PLO does the same thing."

"IF THEY GO on a trip like this one they must go with their eyes open and be aware of the dangers involved and the fact that the PLO has used groups like this in the past for its own benefit," complained Arthur Abramson, director of the Seattle chapter of the AJC. Like other Jewish leaders, he expressed dismay over the attempts to equate sponsorship of such a trip by a terrorist organization with other bona fide organizations. He declared that the AJC, like other Jewish organizations, never subsidized trips by groups of clergy to the Middle East, and that included Cate's earlier trip to the region.

The public outcry against the trip from the various Jewish organizations led two of the scheduled visitors of the group to drop out.

However the journey of what in the event proved to be a group of five clergymen turned into a major pro-PLO campaign. A local television news crew, headed by Priscilla Collins, chairwoman of King Broadcasting, and commentator Floyd McKay, accompanied the pastors and sent back a story about the visit each evening. The team which rejected financial aid from the PLO and made the trip independently, also interviewed Arafat and filmed Palestinian refugee camps for a programme which will be aired soon. On her return home, Collins blasted the American media for its "pro-Israeli coverage."

THE FIVE clergymen returned from the trip with praise for the PLO, telling reporters that they were "touched" by what they learned during their meetings with Arafat, Palestinian orphans, hospital workers and soldiers in Lebanon, and by their visits to Palestinian refugee camps in Southern Lebanon.

"I feel a strong sense of commitment to work in any way I can for the cause of justice for the Palestinian people," said Romney of the First Baptist Church, who before leaving for Lebanon had invited Rabbi James Mirel of Temple Dr. Hirsch in Seattle to address his congregation during a Sunday morning service.

Romney also said that the pistol-packing Arafat impressed him as "a magnetic leader with an electrifying personality," adding: "I can't think of any time I've met anyone so completely dedicated to a cause."

Rev. William Cate, the leader of the group, said that at a dinner in a

large building somewhere in Beirut, "Arafat was 'open, congenial, and spoke frankly in excellent English of his hopes and aspirations for his people.'"

Cate stressed that this trip convinced him that "peace will not come to the area until the Palestinian people feel that they have received justice" and that "the PLO is the legitimate political representative of the Palestinian people." The trip, he said, confirmed his suspicions that the American media isn't telling the whole story of the Middle East war: "We have seen the other side of the story."

Rev. Glenn, another participant in the trip, said that his principal impression of Arafat was that "there was a man who seems almost empty of the arrogance, the power, that characterizes so many leaders."

He said the Palestinian leader "didn't talk about driving the Israelis into the sea. He talked about a negotiated settlement, because he realized Israel's military power."

THE TRIP could have turned into a major PLO victory had it not been for a group of Evangelical ministers who put all their political weight behind a counter, pro-Israeli campaign initiated by the Seattle Jewish community. Immediately following the return of the liberal clergymen, a press conference was organized by eight conservative fundamentalist leaders, most of whom belong to Tav Evangelical Ministries. The Sacramento-based Tav, the last letter of the Hebrew alphabet, symbolizes the end of the world. At the conference they described the PLO as "the world's most ruthless terrorist band," and blasted the liberal ministers for using PLO money for the trip.

"We want the Seattle general area to understand that these five Christian ministers do not represent the Seattle area churches," said Douglas Shearer, a painting contractor from Sacramento.

The group even purchased a large advertisement in the *Seattle Times*, with a long list of endorsers — it included leading Evangelical clergymen from California to British Columbia in Canada.

The ad stated, in part:

"We Evangelical Christians do not condemn the trip itself. Certainly the clergymen can justifiably lay claim to a right and perhaps even a moral obligation to independently ascertain the veracity of the accusations... However, we find unconscionable the use of the PLO funds... We deeply regret the obvious imputation of Christian legitimacy to one of the world's most ruthless and unprincipled terrorist bands. We protest against an almost complete lack of discretion, a crude insensitivity which joined the name of the Prince of Peace to brutality, cowardice and implacable cruelty."

The Seattle Jewish leaders were encouraged by the reaction from the Evangelical group, whose enthusiastic support, in the words of Robbe Bridge, "demonstrated once again that the Jewish community and the State of Israel have many friends among Christians."

As the *Seattle Times* noted in a follow-up article, the relationship between liberal Protestants and the Jews in Seattle "will be strained and nervous for a long, long time."

EDITORIAL COMMENT



MR. BEGIN evidently does not feel satisfied unless he has enemies of the Jewish People to attack. For a while he picked on foreign politicians, like Helmut Schmidt, Lord Carrington, Caspar Weinberger. This perturbed the diplomatic professionals who know that such outbursts do not advance our foreign policy, but it stirred the Likud faithful who found it heroic.

In recent weeks, the Prime Minister has decided to create enemies of the Jewish People at home. The Labour Alignment was, of course, the first target.

MONDAY, APRIL 5, 1982

Witch hunt

Because of some posters at a recent Peace Now rally, where Labour MKs took part, protesting Israeli policy on the West Bank, Mr. Begin, in the style of Joe McCarthy, branded Labour as soft on the PLO, and thus an enemy of the people.

Yesterday, it was the turn of Israel Radio and the Likud-appointed director of the Broadcasting Authority, Yosef Lapid. The radio, Mr. Begin decreed,

was anti-Zionist. Mr. Lapid, who presides over it, was likened to Mandatory officials, presumably meaning he was a chief anti-Zionist. What was needed, Mr. Begin said, was an official radio monitor, appointed by the responsible minister, Education Minister Ze'evulun Hammer.

These tirades of Mr. Begin are no longer amusing. He was elected by the people to head the government of Israel. He was not elected by the people to be a witch hunter, deciding who among them is a Zionist and who is an anti-Zionist.

TUESDAY, APRIL 6, 1982

After Pessah

dable, but there is some reason to believe that they are not justified. Mr. Sharon's tactics at Yamit, it is true, have long been puzzlingly unsteady. The minister has regularly been blowing hot and cold: now suggesting that it would be the better part of wisdom to keep the Egyptians guessing about Israel's intentions in the event of an Egyptian violation of the peace treaty, now categorically rejecting any notion that this country might go back on its word by refusing to complete the withdrawal by April 26.

Inevitably the conclusion must be that Mr. Sharon is readying the ground not for a moratorium on withdrawal but for the final ouster of its opponents — after Pessah.

There can be no other plan, even if the Stop the Withdrawal leaders turn down Mr. Sharon's earnest, if somewhat naive, request that they should avoid reinforcing their troops at Yamit during Pessah. For this, plainly, would make the army's task of getting them out rather more difficult.

The defence minister's tactics are not immune to criticism, of course. One critical comment on them has come from the former deputy defence minister, Mordechai Zipori, now the minister of communications. On a visit to Yamit Mr. Zipori told the dihedrals, who had greeted him with epics, that, had it been up to him, he would have kicked them out in two days flat.

It may take Mr. Sharon a few days more, but he will do the same — right after Pessah.

FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 1982

The troubled West Bank

STRANGE THINGS happen in the West Bank. Shortly after most of the Israel police officers and soldiers had gone home, or to their nearby headquarters, Wednesday afternoon to celebrate the Pessah Seder, five men armed with Uzi submachine guns beat up a guard and the dean of students at the Bethlehem university. They then moved on to damage university property inside the campus and from there went to the neighbouring town of Beit Sahour to attack a Greek Orthodox club and a local coffee shop.

By last night still no one had been detained for having been involved in this rampage, although three of the five attackers were clearly identified by local residents. One of them is reported to be Samer Bishara Kumsiya, the son of the head of the Bethlehem area village league, Bishara Kumsiya. They were also clearly seen travelling in a Landrover vehicle, the type of which is used by village league members for their patrols.

Wednesday's premeditated attack came in the wake of threatening letters, some of which were signed by village league members, that were received by Bethlehem municipality employees and East Jerusalem newspapers during the past few days, urging them that unless they will desist from speaking or writing against the village leagues, they will face the "final solution." An employee of the Bethlehem municipality also had his car burned on Wednesday.

Although there is still no official proof that the village leagues are involved in these violent attacks and threats, all initial signs seem to point in their direction. Bethlehem village league head, Bishara Kumsiya, yesterday however denied any involvement by his people in these attacks, while some of his colleagues suggested that they were acts of provocation, perpetrated by hostile elements whose aim is to discredit the village leagues. While one can understand the embarrassment caused to the village league leaders by Wednesday's acts of violence, their version, does not appear to be credible in the face of the hard facts.

Only earlier this week, Mustafa Dadein, the leader of the Hebron area village league, appealed to Israel journalists and university professors to help him portray a more positive image of his organization which uses its arms "only in self-defence." Their only aim was to stave off terrorist threats and attacks by the PLO in order to be able to negotiate a political solution of the Palestinian problem, he professed. Wednesday's events hardly follow the line of Mr. Dadein's hoped-for public image.

But the major concern is not how the Palestinian Arabs in the West Bank fight their own wars and settle their accounts. It is the attitude of the Israeli authorities in the West Bank, military and civilian, which allows these kinds of violent attacks by local residents, armed and trained with Israel weapons, that is at issue.

Defence Minister Ariel Sharon has stated repeatedly that the main purpose of setting up the village leagues was to allow local Palestinian Arabs to join the peace process at a time when the protracted and deadlocked autonomy talks are expected to reach a new and decisive stage. That can only happen once the PLO in the West Bank is cut down to size and can no longer impose its rule of terror, it is claimed.

Mr. Sharon is also committed through repeated statements during the autonomy talks to introduce "confidence building" measures in the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip. It is this phrase which still gives hope to the Egyptians that after the final withdrawal from Sinai later this month the autonomy talks may yet get off the ground, after all.

But what has been happening in the West Bank in recent weeks can hardly be described as "building confidence" by the Israeli authorities. To make matters worse, Israel soldiers and settlers apparently are far freer now to use their firearms to wound and kill than they were hitherto.

There must certainly be better ways of dispersing even violent crowds of young protesting students than shooting at them. But once strict discipline for the use of arms is loosened, even a lone soldier on guard can easily become trigger-happy. Unfortunately, there is no other way of describing yesterday's sad incident in which a 40-year-old Arab woman was killed instantly by a single shot fired by a soldier on guard duty near the Beit El military complex while tilling a field with four of her children.

At a time when the Chief of Staff claims that the cease-fire with the PLO is in effect not being implemented because of terror acts perpetrated by the PLO both abroad and in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, Israel must be doubly careful in maintaining a humane and liberal attitude towards the innocent and unarmed population in these territories, which is the overwhelming majority there. For it is the Palestinian Arabs in the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip with whom we must come to terms for a peaceful co-existence in the final analysis.

The one ray of hope in this direction is that even former pronounced extremists among the Palestinians have come to the conclusion that only a political solution can solve their problem — and that means negotiations with Israel. They certainly deserve encouragement, but not through counter-terror. For many years Israel's administration of the territories was known as one of the most benevolent military occupation regimes in history. Were such benevolence and liberalism to be restored in words and deeds, one would again be able to see light at the end of the tunnel.

READERS' LETTERS

ANTI-SEMITISM IN HOLLAND

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, — In your editorial of March 4, "Dank je wel, Nederland," you welcome the tulips, hyacinths and daffodils now blooming in Jerusalem as a gift of the Israel Comite Nederland.

Your editorial gives the impression that you believe that the whole or almost the whole Dutch people still solidly supports Israel. As a matter of fact, this view is erroneous.

The Israel Comite Nederland is a relatively small Protestant group which stands solidly behind Israel. But it is by no means typical of the opinion of the majority of the Dutch population today, just as the courage of the Righteous Gentiles during the Nazi occupation was not typical.

There is therefore no ground for contrasting the people of the Netherlands with the government. I believe that, among the younger generation, the majority is even more anti-Israeli and pro-Palestinian than the Dutch government, as many people who are in contact with secondary school students, and other youngsters can testify.

In support of my view, I refer to a recent article by a prominent Dutch Zionist, Robert A. Levison. He claims that the present Israel Government, led by Mr. Begin, is causing so much anti-Semitism in Holland that it endangers the position of the Jews in this country, and he calls on his readers for support, so that the Jews of Holland can persuade the Israel Government to change its policy, which is a danger to the Gola.

Moreover, the theme at many meetings and panels convened not only by Jewish but also by Zionist bodies in Holland is not so much Israel, but present-day anti-Semitism, which they consider a very serious problem today.

I myself do not find that anti-Semitism is more widespread in Holland today than it used to be. But many prominent Jews and Zionists think that anti-Semitism is the most important subject for Jews in Holland today and that the policy of the Israel Government is to blame for it.

HENRIETTE BOAS
Bachhoevedorp, Holland.

YA'ACOV MERIDOR

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, — The contribution of Ya'acov Meridor to the independence of this nation and to the feeding of its people has been such that, even if the process associated with his name proves to be of no economic value whatsoever, his name and fame are assured in the history of reborn Israel. This assumes, of course, that such histories will be written by academics with no connection to Israel's Labour parties.

BURTON RAVINS
Jerusalem.

Sir, — The question is not the value of Mr. Meridor's discovery, but his reliability and his negative reflection on the national integrity.

Certainly, Mr. Meridor has outlasted any usefulness as an official or member of our government. He must resign.

Moreover, we must have a strong citizens' protest movement in order to reject the government's irrational behaviour and what appears to be its downright ignorance. Israel deserves better.

ALVIN J. CAPLAN
Jerusalem.

MUSEUM GIFT SHOP

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, — Barbara Jones was correct, in her recent to the editor when she stated that, in order to enter the Israel Museum, where its gift shop is located, one has to pay an entrance fee.

As it happens, our museum, like many abroad, is a newcomer to the realm of merchandising and developing methods of accommodating the customer as well as the art-lover. For example, we do advertise that, with a purchase of IS200 or more, we will give a free entrance ticket. In addition, all items offered in our shop can be ordered by mail or telephone.

Recently, work has begun on our long-awaited new Victor and Adrea Carter Entrance Pavilion, which will house an expanded museum shop plus box office and information desk. Thus, one will be able to shop at the museum without having to enter it — thereby avoiding the obligation of having to see the finest art collection in the Middle East.

MEIR MEYER,
Vice Chairman,
Jerusalem.

THE IMPACT OF EVACUATION ON TV

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, — Having abandoned Israel after four and a half years, C. Blumberg and S. Shuman are following the evacuation of Sinai towns while relaxing before their television screen in Capetown (Letters — March 29).

Guided by the judicious selection of subject matter that makes TV such a powerful medium, what is it that strikes Blumberg and Shuman? The sacrifices Israel is making for a dubious peace? The trauma of seeing Israeli soldiers evacuating Israeli citizens? The sorrow of families forced to abandon what they had built? None of this. Their TV crew has decided that the subject shall be cats and dogs abandoned in the confusion of the

evacuation. Jews and Gentiles alike responded adversely to the scenes shown, and B. and S. felt deeply ashamed and indulge in some smug moralizing. (One hopes their delicate feelings will never be offended by observing harsh treatment being meted out to living beings in their more immediate surroundings).

We learn from this that, however praiseworthy we act, there will always be a TV crew that will highlight a minor imperfection, there will always be Jews in the Galut ashamed of something and, I am sorry to say, there will always be an Israeli newspaper ready to print such trash.

R. DAVID KOOL
Tel Aviv.

Dry Bones



JEW IN AGRICULTURE

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, — Beth Hatefutsoth will present an extensive exhibition in April 1983 on "Jews in Agriculture in the Diaspora in the 19th and 20th centuries."

The Museum is collecting documentary material for the exhibition, such as: photographs, illustrations, pictures, documents, periodicals and professional publications, publications by Jewish agricultural schools and any other relevant material. The exhibition aims at presenting and reflecting the part played by Diaspora Jews in agriculture in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Beth Hatefutsoth appeals to anyone who may have material relevant to the exhibition to send it to the Museum, preferably with a brief explanation. After being photographed and documented, the material will be returned to the sender if so requested.

E. BENJAMINI,
Temporary Exhibitions Department,
Beth Hatefutsoth,
P.O.B. 39339,
Tel Aviv 61392

SHARON ON TV

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, — On Sunday, March 8th, the Defence Minister, Ariel Sharon, appeared on the David Brinkley Show — a highly rated political TV programme in this country. As a Jew, I felt most embarrassed by his performance. Mr. Sharon did not listen to the reporters' questions and his answers were, though no doubt sincere, rhetorical and meaningless.

Israel cannot afford this kind of poor image generated by a leading figure, today less than ever.

GABRIEL GROSS
Santa Clara, California.



TOURISTS TO ISRAEL

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, — We are a Jewish couple who have recently returned from our third trip to Israel, this time including a side trip to Egypt.

We are sorry to report that we were made much more welcome by the Egyptians in Egypt than by the Israelis in Israel. In Egypt the people were friendly and helpful, but in Israel we felt almost a hostility.

If Israel would like to see a growth in tourism, particularly in these lean economic times, the Israelis should work harder at making tourists feel welcome.

SIMMY AND COLIN LEWIS
Willowdale, Canada.

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, — On behalf of my headmaster and myself, I wish to thank the people of Israel for the hospitality and friendship given to the young students of our school who visited your country on February 20 to 27.

Their ages ranged from 12 to 15 years and for many, it was their first visit away from Ireland and I can assure you that they will retain many precious memories of the Israeli people and their country.

ELIZABETH GAYE STERITT,
Markethill High School
Markethill, Ulster.

READERS' LETTERS

TRIGGER-HAPPY

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, — Twice David Richardson employs the characterization of "trigger-happy" to describe Jewish residents of Judea and Samaria in a recent Jerusalem Post article. As I potentially fit his terminology, I would wish to make the following observations:

1. The standing orders for all Israeli citizens when in Judea and Samaria, whether residents or visitors, insist upon the carrying of arms.

2. The weapons distributed to the residents are for our self-protection to be used to defend our lives.

3. Stones, bottles and other projectiles (now, it seems, to include burning tyres) when thrown in support of the aims of the PLO can kill, injure or maim and are so intended.

4. In response to such hostile acts that are an identification with a terrorist organization dedicated to the eventual annihilation of Israel and

in case of serious danger, the instructions of the army authorities are quite clear and require the opening of fire.

5. Given the multiplicity of such acts and the fact that our weapons are automatic, it should be obvious to a non-biased observer, Israeli or foreign, that the low incidence of death both of Jewish and Arab residents is a sign that the system works. To attempt to indict a person acting in accordance with his legal right in such a situation with the charge of premeditated murder as the police have recently attempted and to willfully besmirch 25,000 Jews living in scores of villages throughout Judea and Samaria as "trigger-happy" as Mr. Richardson has done in the pages of The Jerusalem Post is slanderous and demagogic.

YISRAEL MEDAD
Shiloh.

DEMOGRAPHIC TIME BOMB

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, — A great threat to the Jewish people's future is largely ignored: the demographic time bomb. I am not referring to the Arab birth rate on the West Bank or within the borders of pre-1967 Israel. It is the erosion of the Jewish survivors throughout the world.

When President Navon addressed members of the 1982 Israel Bonds' mission, he revealed his awareness of the problem by referring to Jewish families in the Diaspora having no more than two children. He wants Jews to have more than two children. Unfortunately, the great

reservoir of European Jewry has gone together with the social structure that begat large families. We are largely middle class now, non-Orthodox and with middle class values about birth control. It is only the pockets of Orthodox Jewry in places like Williamsburg, New York and Stamford Hill, London, that normally have more than two children per family.

In the long term, it appears on current trends that large segments of Jewry will disappear.

PETER MARSH
London.

ADMIRABLE DEVOTION

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, — Regardless of whether one agrees or disagrees with the Stop the Withdrawal Movement, and as much as it hurts all of us to see Jews fighting among themselves, we still must respect and admire the unselfish devotion and persistence of the Sinai squatters. A vast majority of them driven solely by love for Eretz Yisrael and care for the future

of our people uprooted their lives and the lives of their families and jeopardized or inconvenienced their jobs to fight a frustrating and seemingly impossible battle.

In an era of diminishing Zionist feelings, increased emigration and materialistic aspirations, it is refreshing to see that some people still really care.

Jerusalem. ARNOLD NATHAN

The downgrading of barley

TORA AND FLORA
L.I. Rabinowitz

WE ARE IN THE middle of the period of the Counting of the Omer, the seven weeks, the 49 days, which separate Pesach from Shavuot, the "Feast of Weeks." Historical events have transformed these days, which were originally days of joy into days of gloom and semi-mourning.

Barley was the first grain of the year to ripen; and the Omer of barley which was offered on Passover was important not only in itself but as the harbinger of the Divine bounty. This was to evince itself steadily, until at the end of the 49 days of counting the farmer could indicate and mark the first fruits which would supply his needs for the year. But the tragic fate which overtook the warriors of Bar Kochba, the disciples of R. Akiba who hailed him as the Redeemer, which took place during these very days, has transformed them into days of semi-mourning, apart from Lag B'Omer, the 33rd day.

Apart from a statement to the effect that they brought "barley for the horses and the swift steeds" of

King Solomon's stables (1 Kings 5:8) there is no suggestion, as far as I am aware, in the Bible that barley was in any way inferior for human consumption to wheat, although it is stated that the price of barley was half that of fine flour (2 Kings 7:1).

That situation, however, changed during the period of the Talmud, and it came to be regarded essentially as animal fodder. (T.J. Sukkah p. 31c) and so characteristic was this regarded as its essential use that it gave rise to a homiletical explanation as to why the wife suspected of adultery had to bring an offering of "an ephah of barley flour" (Numbers 5:15). "She fed him (her paramour) on the choicest of dainties, for this reason she was obliged to bring an offering of animal fodder" (Sotah 9).

Even apart from that, however, barley was regarded so essentially as the poor man's food, eaten only by those who could not afford the more expensive wheat that there was a popular saying, "Why does he eat barley? Only because he has no wheat. And why does he eat carob? Only because he has no pressed dates available."

Barley was equated with carob as the poor man's food.

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